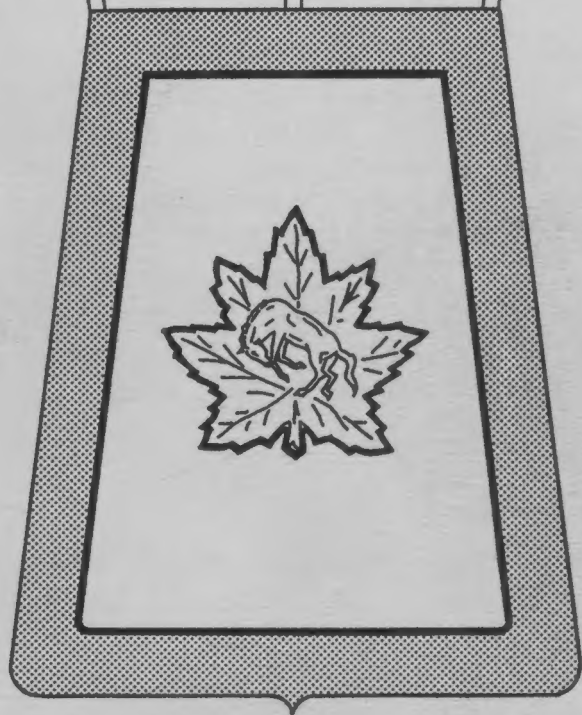


# SABRETACHE



**The Memorial Journal  
of the  
VIII Recce Association**

**MARCH 1966**

*God send me to see suche a  
Company together agayne when  
need is*

Lord Howard of Effingham

This Memorial volume is published by the VIIIth Recce Association to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Regiment and to honour those of their number who gave their lives in the service of their country during World War II.

Editor

Lt. Col. C. D. Williams, CD, QC.



H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

## FOREWORD

MAJ. GEN. C. CHURCHILL MANN,  
CBE, DSO, CD.

As I write this brief foreword to your journal, I experience mixed feelings of pride, pleasure and sadness.

The feeling of pride stems from my close association with the VIIIth Reconnaissance Regiment. As its first commander, I was instrumental in its formation and early growth. Later as Chief of Staff of First Canadian Army I watched the regiment develop into one of the finest units of its kind and I took an especial satisfaction in the part it played in the final operations in Northern Holland, where it cooperated so effectively with the Special Air Service Units in the long range disruption of the retreating German forces.

My pleasure comes from once again renewing my association with the members of the regiment through my affiliation with the VIIIth Recce Association and in once again participating with them in their activities — although the participants may not be quite so active as in earlier years and the activities not quite so strenuous!

My sadness lies in the knowledge that so many of our number suffered so much and so many did not return. To them and to their families I extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathy.

Our regiment, though short lived, created a memorable record. Its possessions were few, but its glory great. In the Cavalry tradition it carried its plate into battle and the foundation tray today bears the mark of a stray enemy bullet.

I trust that all those who participate in this reunion of the regiment, which marks the 25th Anniversary of its founding, and those of you who are unable to be on hand will have pleasure in renewing old acquaintanceships through perusing this Memorial Journal prepared for the occasion.



C. C. MANN

The Patrons and Officers of  
**The VIIIth Recce Association**

**Patron**

Maj. Gen. C. Churchill Mann, CBE, DSO, CD.

**Honorary President**

Lt. Col. B. M. Alway, DSO.

**Officers**

President - - - - R. H. Gentles

Vice-President - - - E. Boyes

Secretary-Treasurer - - M. Daunais

## The President's Page

It is the intention of your executive that this Journal shall serve three purposes. First to honour those of our number who gave their lives for Canada in World War II, second to strengthen those fraternal bonds which existed in our unit between men from all parts of Canada and from all walks of life and which may have grown thin with the passing of time and lastly to evoke memories of the hardships, dangers and good times shared by us all in those great days when we served in, and fought with VIII RECCE.



We in Calgary are looking forward to seeing you all at the 25th Anniversary Reunion on July 22nd and 23rd. It will be an experience you will never forget thanks to the efforts of the members of my executive and many others who have helped us prepare for this long awaited reunion.

The VIII Recce Association is a rather loose organization. It is guided by no charter, no by-laws, and no defined aim or purpose. Your executive was told, simply, to hold a national reunion. This we are endeavouring to do. If it is a success, and we have every reason to believe it will be, I suppose you might say that we have discharged our obligation. Yet I cannot accept this as the complete fulfillment of our duty. Today the unity of Canada is threatened as it never was before and the more pessimistic see us ceasing to exist as a nation. Like Hell—Not if the VIII Recce Association can do anything about it.

Those of you familiar with the early history of the Regiment know that it was somewhat unique. Formed in England in 1941, it drew its first skeleton and early muscle from nearly every unit in the 2nd Canadian Division and was, as a result, a mixture of Canadians from every part of Canada. The arrival of the first reinforcements from Saskatchewan imparted a strong western flavor but the unit never lost its truly national character and composition. If ever a regiment could be called "All-Canadian", the VIII Recce was it.

It was as Canadians that we fought and the cause for which we served transcended any regional differences, whether in outlook or language, that might otherwise have divided us. The cause was noble. It was the preservation of our country as a nation in a free world. It is equally noble today.

Now, 25 years later, at this first national reunion we will meet again as Canadians from all parts of Canada. As Canadians we will renew old friendships and recall together our wartime exepriences. And we'll show, as only those who were prepared to shed blood for their country can show, that the things that divide us can never replace the things that unite us as Canadians.

If, when this 25th Anniversary Reunion is ended, you leave with a stronger sense of pride in being a Canadian, with a warmer feeling of friendship—kinship is a better word—toward your fellow Canadians and with a determination to see that there will always be a Canada, then will I feel that the purpose of this reunion has been served and that my duty as President of the VIII Recce Association has been fully discharged.

R. H. GENTLES

*Elizabeth II*

**ELIZABETH THE SECOND,**  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA  
AND HER OTHER REALMS AND TERRITORIES QUEEN,  
HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME OR  
WHOM THE SAME MAY IN ANYWISE CONCERN

**GREETING**

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the Senate of Canada, by resolution passed on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four, has recommended that there be designated, as the National Flag of Canada, the flag hereinafter described;

AND WHEREAS the House of Commons of Canada, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four, did concur in the recommendation, made on the twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four by a Special Committee thereof, that the flag, hereinafter described, be designated as the National Flag of Canada;

NOW KNOW YE that by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, We do by this Our Royal Proclamation appoint and declare as the National Flag of Canada, upon, from and after the fifteenth day of February, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, a red flag of the proportions two by length and one by width, containing in its centre a white square the width of the flag bearing a single red maple leaf in its centre as follows:

*put upon a single leaf of the foregoing*

OF ALL WHICH Our loving Subjects and all others whom these Presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly;

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

Given the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-five and in the thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

*By Her Majesty's Command*  
*Letter B. Pearson*



**ELISABETH DEUX,** PAR LA  
GRACE DE DIEU REINE DU ROYAUME-UNI, DU CANADA  
ET DES AUTRES ROYAUMES ET TERRITOIRES, CHEF  
DU COMMONWEALTH ET DEFENSEUR DE LA FOI.

A TOUS CEUX A QUI LES PRESENTS PARVIENDRONT OÙ  
QUELQUES SOIENT DE QUELQUES MANIÈRES CONCERNÉS,

**SALUT**

PROCLAMATION

CONSIDÉRANT que le Sénat du Canada, par une résolution adoptée le 17<sup>er</sup> jour de décembre, en l'an de grâce mil neuf cent soixante-quatre, a recommandé que soit désigné, comme Drapeau national du Canada, le drapeau ci-après décrit;

ET CONSIDÉRANT que la Chambre des communes du Canada, le 17<sup>er</sup> jour de décembre, en l'an de grâce mil neuf cent soixante-quatre, a approuvé la recommandation formulée le vingt-neuvième jour d'octobre, en l'an de grâce mil neuf cent soixante-quatre, par un Comité spécial d'élite et portant que le drapeau ci-après décrit soit désigné comme Drapeau national du Canada;

SACHEZ DONC MAINTENANT que, de et par l'avis de Notre Conseil privé pour le Canada, Nous désignons et déclarons comme Drapeau national du Canada, à compter du quinzième jour de février, en l'an de grâce mil neuf cent soixante-cinq, un drapeau rouge dont les proportions sont de deux de longueur sur un de largeur, à savoir blanc au centre, dans de la largeur accolée à la largeur et portant une seule feuille d'érable rouge en son centre d'équilibre, de laquelle, au point canadien d'équilibre, découpe d'une feuille d'érable de proportions de la longueur égale à la largeur, en l'an de grâce mil neuf cent soixante-cinq, la tricolore de Notre Drapeau.

EN FOI DE QUOI Nous avons fait dresser Nos présentes Lettres Patentes et à celles fait apposer le Grand Sceau du Canada.

Donné le 23<sup>er</sup> jour de janvier en l'an de grâce mil neuf cent soixante-cinq, la troisième de Notre Règne.

*Par l'ordre de Sa Majesté*  
*Letter B. Pearson*







The Various Designation of the  
8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment  
(14th Canadian Hussars)

constituted 26 Jan 41  
14th (Active) Canadian Hussars)

redesignated 11 Feb 41  
8th Reconnaissance Battalion  
(14th Canadian Hussars)

redesignated 8 Jun 42  
8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment  
(14th Canadian Hussars)

Disbanded 15 Dec 45

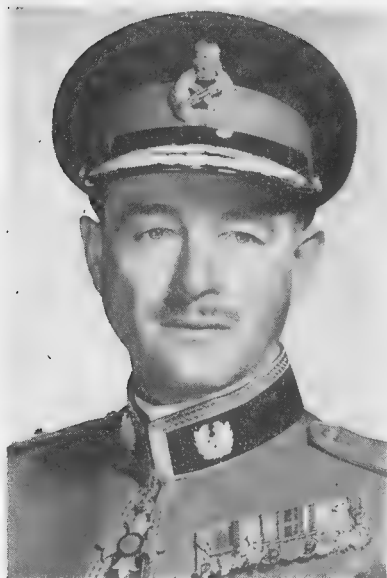
Battle Honours  
(for emblazement)

Caen  
Falaise  
The Seine 1944  
Antwerp - Turnhout Canal  
The Scheldt  
South Beveland  
Twente Canal  
Groningen  
Oldenburg  
North-West Europe 1944-1945



**The Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company, Ltd.,** 112, Regent Street, London, W.1.

The Commanding Officers  
1941 - 1945



C. C. Mann



F. A. Vokes



B. M. Alway

**THE REGIMENT IN WORLD WAR II**  
**A short history of the**  
**8th CANADIAN RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT**  
**(14th Canadian Hussars)**

by

**Lt. Col. R. F. Green, CD**

in collaboration with

**Lt. Col. C. D. Williams, CD, QC and Major R. H. D. Gentles**

*Editor's Note:* A publication such as this Memorial Journal places obvious limitations on the type of history that can be written for it. This is not, nor was it ever intended to be, a textbook treatment of the subject. None of us who collaborated in this history are professional writers nor did we have access to official records or to the war diary. It has been written from memory almost in its entirety. Bob Green, with amazing recall of names, places and events that took place 20 to 25 years ago, supplied the broad outline and many of the interesting items that appear on the following pages. Bob Gentles added some highlights of his own drawing on the memories invoked by literally hundreds of conversations with former comrades-in-arms of all ranks. Dick Williams, exercising his editorial prerogatives, hacked at, re-worded and added to the version submitted by the two Bobs. Let us say this is a history of the Regiment as we saw it or were told about it. If we have erred in the names, dates and places don't be too harsh on us. If we have captured something of the spirit of the 8th Recce and brought back to mind many long forgotten incidents we will be satisfied. Some day the definitive history of the 14th Canadian Hussars and the 8th Recce's share in it may be written. In the meantime, for the former members of the Regiment and all others interested, let us hope this will fill the gap. As you read along, HAPPY MEMORIES!

---

## **WAR**

"Now therefore We do hereby Declare and Proclaim that a state of War with the German Reich exists and has existed in Our Dominion of Canada as and from the tenth day of September 1939."

—Canada Gazette 10 Sep 39

Canada was at war with Germany but with cavalry units not needed the 14th Canadian Hussars at Swift Current, Sask., waited in vain for the call to mobilize. However, the German offensive against the low countries and France in the spring of 1940 showed the vital need for special reconnaissance elements who could work well forward and to each flank to provide cover and to give early indications of the enemy's strength and intentions. This was the role of the old Divisional cavalry regiments. In this war they would need better transportation than horses could provide and sufficient

fire power to fight for information but above all good communication facilities were essential to get the information back to the higher formation commanders in time for them to make use of it.

The re-organization of the British and Canadian forces after Dunkirk led in 1940 to the formation of a Reconnaissance Squadron for each infantry Brigade using motorcycles and Lewis Guns—all that was available at this time. In early 1941 some tracked Bren Gun carriers and a few Beaverette Scout Cars were added and the Recce Squadrons were placed on a battalion status and brought under Divisional control.

On 26 Jan 41 the 14th (Active) Canadian Hussars were mobilized with the order stating that the unit would consist of personnel from 2nd Canadian Division in England with reinforcements from Canada. On 11 Feb 41 the Regiment was re-designated the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Battalion (14th Canadian Hussars). This designation remained until Jun 42 when we discarded our “split-ass” hats, put on black berets and were officially accepted as part of the Canadian Armoured Corps. From then on we were a Regiment not a Battalion which was much more fitting to our cavalry tradition. Thus the 8th Recce was born and the Divisional cavalry regiment regained its place in the order of battle but now it would ride on wheels and tracks instead of horses.

The Reconnaissance Regiments retained their basic formation throughout the war. There were three Squadrons each with three Scout Troops and a motor borne Assault Troop. The Scout Troop was the main tactical unit and had a five car ARC (Armoured Reconnaissance Car) Section and two Bren Gun Carrier Sections each with three Carriers plus a command carrier for the Troop Leader. In combat he directed his Troop from one of the Arcs. The Scout Troop carried fire power equivalent to an infantry company and was a formidable adversary against ground troops. A Headquarters Squadron supplied supporting fire power—a three-inch Mortar Troop and an Anti-Tank Battery. This Squadron also provided the necessary administrative services.

The Recce Regiment was the General’s “seeing-eye” and this was symbolized in the famous “bull’s-eye” shoulder flash worn by the 8th Recce in the early days before distinctive regimental identification patches were forbidden. The obtaining and passing of information was their primary role and it was carried out with remarkable efficiency. Information gained by the Scout Troops was in the Div Commander’s hands within minutes as it was rushed back through Squadron rear wireless links to Regimental Headquarters and then on to Div. But all this was some time in the future.

At the moment the Regiment had a name, a role and precious little else. Lt. Col. (now Major General, retired) C. Churchill Mann of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was appointed the first Commanding Officer and what a CO he turned out to be! Major Fred A. Vokes of the Lord Strathcona Horse (RC), fresh from commanding one of the Brigade Recce Squadrons, was appointed 2 i/c.

Taking command of a rather motley crew representing nearly 20 units each with its own badges and traditions, Lt. Col. Mann proceeded to instill some sense of esprit de corps into his new charges. He designed a distinctive hat badge—the now familiar silver maple leaf with gilt VIII Recce scroll.

When Ordnance refused to supply it he ordered and paid for them out of his own pocket. Troops were assessed 7 6 each for their new badge. They squawked but paid when he threatened to cancel passes for anyone not wearing the new badge. Crime sheets were wiped clean but he dealt severely with new transgressions and 28 days field punishment was the standard punishment. All ranks were ordered to grow a moustache as a means of identification and though the results were not always a tonsorial success they did bring the first glimmerings of regimental pride.

The Regiment assembled in the Aldershot area in the Spring of 1941, first at Guillemont Barracks, Cove and then at Blenheim Barracks, North Camp, Aldershot. Although seriously undermanned and suffering from grave shortages of equipment an intensive training program was undertaken. Col. Mann wrote his own training manuals which later became the standard for Canadian Recce units.

The high mark of the early training period came when the 4th Recce (1st Div.) joined with the 8th in a scheme against the "Limey" Recce units. The Canadians went into action on an "all-wheeled" and "all-tracked" basis each moving at their own speeds. The wheeled vehicles of the Canadians were able to penetrate deep into enemy territory while the advance of the English was slowed down by the tracked vehicles. It resulted in a resounding victory for the Canadians and was a forerunner of the eventual method of employing the armoured cars in battle. Thus, prodded, cajoled and guided by its brilliant CO and a handful of experienced officers and NCO's the 8th Recce always did just a little more than was asked of it and was not long in making a name for itself.

## THE L-53's

In Canada recruiting for the 8th Recce was done at the Manning Depots in Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. By mid-March 1941 some 40 officers—all Lieutenants—and well over 600 Troopers had been signed on. They were moved in two drafts, one to Farnham and the other to Huntingdon in Quebec. No provision was made for NCO's although how 600 men were to be controlled without them was never explained. It was fortunate that a number of recruits had held NCO rank at 120 and 121 NPAM Training Centres and agreed to assume the duties of their former rank **WITHOUT PAY**.

The bulk of the recruits were strong young men from the farms and rural towns of Saskatchewan. They were at home with trucks, cars and machinery of all kinds and were to prove themselves ideal personnel for the new reconnaissance battalions. Regimental numbers L53000 to L53999 were allotted to this draft and they were known from then on as the L-53's.

Some training was attempted at Farnham and Huntingdon although no one was quite sure just what a Reconnaissance Battalion was or what it was supposed to do. In early May the two drafts were gathered under one roof at Farnham along with the reinforcements for their sister regiment the 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards—the "Plugs" of 1st Div. Officer strength was swelled with arrivals from Calgary and Dundurn. The draft was ready to proceed overseas when the Bismarck broke out to threaten the sea lanes of the North Atlantic and sailing had to be delayed until this menace had been despatched to her watery grave.

With Farnham needed for other purposes the L-53's found themselves orphans. They were first marched for a pleasant two week stay at St. Hyacinth and then moved by train to Sherbrooke to be billeted in cattle barns at the fair grounds. The cattle probably beat them overseas. It was a frustrating period — waiting to go and wondering when.

Sailing orders finally arrived in early June about the same time as a serious epidemic of mumps broke out among the troops. This threatened to cancel the embarkation order and did force cancellation of leaves as health authorities refused permission for the exposed troops to use public carriers. The L-53's were denied a last chance to see home and loved ones before sailing but, to their everlasting credit, they accepted the situation and only one man was reported AWL when the draft entrained for Halifax on the morning of June 16th. Normal weeding out along with the serious inroads caused by the mumps had reduced the draft to a total of 26 officers and 396 other ranks. On June 17th they boarded the SS Andes and three days later sailed for England in the largest convoy assembled up to that time.

After a comparatively uneventful crossing they disembarked at Greenock, Scotland on July 3rd and were hustled onto a troop train with few conveniences and no food. The next day the train disgorged its tired and hungry passengers onto the station platform at Fleet, Hants on one of those miserably hot, humid days that are peculiar to England. They were then marched in full kit some four miles to Crookham Crossroads where a staging camp of sorts had been set up to receive them. It was an unhappy and uncomfortable group of L-53's who were eventually fed and assigned quarters.

Spirits improved during the days that followed as landing leaves were granted. In mid-July 41 the L-53's were inspected and addressed by Lt. Col. Mann and shortly afterwards the first draft was made up to go to the Regiment. A limited number were selected for the field unit and the remainder held as reinforcements and posted to the Holding Unit. It was a blow to the L-53's who had developed an esprit-de-corps of their own and had hoped to be kept together. Hardest hit of all were the NCO's who had been performing their duties without pay for all these months. The ones that made it to the Regiment did so as Troopers. A grave injustice was done these fine men and those reading this history should appreciate the importance of their contribution. Without their willingness to perform the duties of a rank for which they were never paid, the movement of this large draft of 400 men would have been a sorry shambles and a sad reflection on the staff work that had organized it in the first place.

## **FULL STRENGTH AT LAST!**

On 28 Jul 41 8th Recce went under canvas at Woodlands Camp near Guildford, Surrey for an intensive period of shakedown training with the now up-to-strength Squadrons. The spectre of invasion still hung over England in the summer of 1941 and this imparted a sense of urgency to the training. Troop, Squadron and Regimental exercises were conducted on an around-the-clock schedule under the watchful eye of Col. Mann. The Scout Troops now had their full complement of Bren Gun Carriers but only one lone Beverette Scout Car so carriers did most of the reconnaissance work. Motorcycles were used mainly by the Intelligence Section and the DR's. These riders developed considerable skill in the handling of their machines and remarkable proficiency in map reading. The south of England was as familiar



to them as their own home town and they would herd the Regiment at high speed from point to point rarely losing their way, day or night.

Accidents on bikes and other vehicles were not uncommon and a number of serious injuries were sustained by personnel. Trooper Pigeau was killed in a Beaverette Scout Car accident on 9 Sep 41 and became the Regiment's first fatality.

A highlight of the stay at Woodlands Campe was the Battle of Guildford. The 8th Recce, muscling in to try and establish proprietary rights to the available supply of young ladies, were challenged by the members of a Canadian Artillery Regiment and a pitched battle took place on the High Street. Local police, assisted by Provost and officers from both Regiments finally were able to restore order. A few hotheads were given a cooling-off period at detention barracks and the remainder settled down to live in peace during the rest of the stay. The Battle of Guildford was ruled a stand-off.

The 8th Recce was considered sufficiently advanced in training to rejoin 2nd Canadian Division for Exercise Bumper in Sep 41. This was the largest manoeuvre held up to that time. 2nd Div formed part of 1st Canadian Corps. The exercise ran for a week and the large scale movement of troops over a wide area under near battle conditions provided training of inestimable value to the reconnaissance units. The 8th Recce distinguished itself in this first major test in its new role and was rewarded by being permitted to return home ahead of all other troops.

On 20 Oct 41 the Regiment was given a place in the Division's Order of Battle and took up defensive positions at Wadhurst, near Tunbridge Wells. During the move Trooper Bill Dobson (who had acted with outstanding efficiency as unpaid RSM of the L-53 draft) was killed on despatch rider duty. It was a sad moment and Bill was the first of the L-53's to be lost.

Fuel, tires and vehicles were in short supply throughout England at this time and as a conservation measure a 20 MPH speed limit was imposed throughout the Canadian Army. The boys found some difficulty gearing down and the toll from Provost speed traps turned the Regimental Orderly Room into a traffic court where those most depressing words "28 days pay" were heard with sickening regularity.

There is an amusing sidelight to the Regiment's short stay at Wadhurst. A march past was scheduled for the Hon. J. L. Ralston, then Minister of National Defence, so he might inspect this new addition to the Canadian forces. Unfortunately he was delayed and dusk had descended when the roll past began. Straining his eyes for a look at the shadowy outlines of vehicles rumbling by in the semi-darkness the Minister, in commenting on the appearance of the 8th Recce, contented himself with remarking to the CO that his Regiment "sounded well".

On 26 November 1941, 8th Recce took up positions on the left flank of 2nd Div being based at Battle, Sussex. "A" Squadron and, in turn "B", were billeted in historic Battle Abbey where troops found themselves continually getting lost in the endless miles of stone corridors and were haunted by the thought that they could easily be AWL without leaving barracks.

It was at this time that Lt. Col. Mann moved up to become GSO1, 2 Div, the first of many promotions that would carry this brilliant, professional soldier to the post of Chief of Staff, First Canadian Army. Although he commanded the 8th Recce for less than a year, the Regiment carried his

stamp throughout the remaining years of its existence. Col. Mann took over an uncertain, disorganized group and left behind him an efficient, confident and razor sharp organization, superbly conditioned and supremely confident of its future success.

### **TRAINING — TRAINING — 2nd more TRAINING**

Lt. Col. Vokes succeeded Col. Mann as Commanding Officer and he too left his indelible mark on the 8th Recce. Major Charles Petch, OC "A" Squadron became 2 i/c.

Under Col. Vokes, training for war continued for another two years. Field exercises proved the best way to put men and vehicles to the test and to train command and staff personnel. Two large scale exercises stand out among the hundreds of exercises in which the Regiment, or segments of it, would participate in the time we were in England.

In May 1942 Exercise Tiger was held under the gentle auspices of Lt. Gen. B. L. Montgomery and all troops under his command in southeast England were engaged. Monty's views on fitness for battle are well known. Tiger was a supreme test of endurance and at one stretch the Regiment was "in action" for 24 hours without pause. Given a two-hour respite they were called on again for another 10 hour stretch when, mercifully, the Exercise was ended. The bone-weary men reacted from sheer instinct. It was an unnerving sight to see a column of vehicles moving down the road with glassy-eyed drivers staring vacantly ahead while the commander and crew fought a losing battle with sleep. It was rough but we lived.

Exercise Spartan was held in March 1943 and employed the First Canadian Army as a unit. It was a massive scheme — the largest during the war — and nearly a quarter of a million men took part. It lasted for a week and swept from Sussex up into the Midlands where it ended in victory for the Canadians near historic Oxford. Contributing to the victory was the discovery of an unblown and undefended bridge by an 8th Recce patrol — at least, that was what the umpires told us when it was all over.

A two week tour of duty training Home Guard units at Dorking, Reigate and Red Hill in Kent provided a pleasant interlude in Jun 42. It was a revelation to see these spare time soldiers show up night after night, tired and stiff, during the two weeks of intensive battle drill training. One has to believe that Hitler's all-conquering army would have its hands full with these stubborn old-country men.

A Regiment needs a pool of trained reinforcements on hand to call on when needed. A Recce Training Centre was established at Dundurn Camp, Sask. early in 42 and NO. 1 CACRU (Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit) was activated in England first at Blackdown and then at Woking. The Regiment helped staff both these centres with duty handled on a rotation basis so that training would be kept abreast of developments in the field unit.

From the field unit itself personnel were being continually sent on a wide variety of courses being operated in the United Kingdom. Most of the Regiment's officers attended the Recce Leaders School at Annan, Scotland. In 1943 Major Alex Ballachey led a group to northwest Africa for duty with First Army and they returned to impart the lessons learned to those who had yet to be "blooded" in battle.

The Regiment suffered its first battle casualties when Capt Bult-Francis and Lieut. Scott were wounded at Dieppe. While the 8th Recce did

It started with these . . .



Royal Inspection  
H.M. George VI and Queen Elizabeth  
with Lt. Col. Mann — March 1941



The "Original" Officers of the 8th Recce  
on Exercises in England - 1941



## The L-53's

Training - Farnham, Que.



48 Hour Pass - Montreal



In Summer Dress at  
St. Hyacinthe, Que



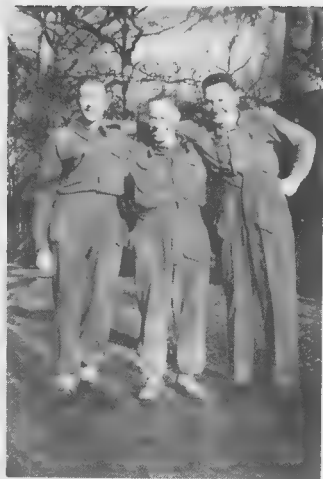
Victory Bond Parade - Sherbrooke, Que



A Prisoner and Guard



"Buddies"



A Group from Sask.  
Mountfield Court



S.Q.M.S. at Work



"C" Sqn Sgts. - England, 1942

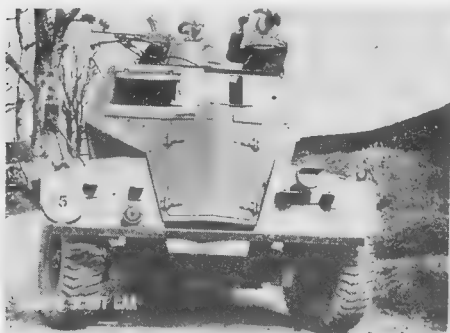


not participate in this raid it did supply a number of Liaison Officers including the CO, Lt. Col. Vokes. Few of them were able to get ashore.

The extended period of training granted to the Regiment permitted it to reach a high standard of efficiency. Fighting techniques were worked on and constantly improved. Battle drills reached a high peak of perfection and the 8th Recce went in to battle in World War II well prepared for its role.

### **VEHICLES, GUNS n' STUFF . . .**

The quantity and quality of equipment kept pace with the improvement in the Regiment's state of readiness for battle. In the summer of 1942 the long-awaited Otter Scout Cars were received. Designed and made in Canada by GM they were top-heavy and a bit clumsy but they did have wheels and the Arc Sections were happy to at last be able to fulfill their role in the Scout Troop. The Carrier Sections were now relegated to secondary, but none-the-less important, roles. The Otters served on Spartan and other exercises but we were happy when we didn't have to take them into action. In early 1944 the Regiment received their first heavy armoured cars — the Mark III Humber, known to Canadians as Foxhounds. These excellent cars mounted a 37 mm in addition to the Besa and the Arcs could now fight back with something heavier than small arms. Dingo's were issued and the Arc Section now consisted of two light and three heavy cars. This composition remained for the rest of the war. Dingos were, at best, a "toy" scout car (although now a component of the armoured regiments) and were replaced later in the Spring by Humber Scout Cars, a much better vehicle. The Humber Scout Cars were fast, easy to handle and maintain and were used as command cars by the CO and the Squadron OC's. They proved their worth in action.



Jeeps made their appearance early in 1943 and found favour with everyone except the Squadron OC's who had to surrender their staff cars which, in future, would be restricted to the CO and the 2 i/c. The Assault Troops were mounted on armoured, White half-tracks in 1944. This was another trouble-free vehicle that gave excellent service.

At this time, too, the Carrier Sections and the Assault Troops had their fire power augmented with Piats for anti-tank protection and there was a general issue of a Rube Goldberg device called a Sten Gun. It had an independent frame of mind, was quite capable of firing without warning or help from the person carrying it and quite frequently did. But it was cheap, mass produced and in plentiful supply.

The new Mark IV Lee Enfield .303 Service Rifle was issued in the Summer of 1943 as a personal weapon for other ranks and being 1½ pounds lighter than the Mark III that it replaced it immediately found favour and acceptance with the rank and file. The Anti-tank Troop was expanded into a battery of two troops and given six pounder guns. However, it still had to fire through open sights without armoured protection. This was to restrict its use in battle against heavier armed and protected vehicles.

No. 19 wireless sets replaced the No. 11 in the Summer of 1943, thank God, giving more reliable communication over a much longer range. By this time all Arcs and the Command Carrier in the Scout Troops made up the Squadron forward wireless link, a total of 19 sets. Since the Arc Sections used this same network for intra-Troop communication it took a high degree of training in wireless procedure and close observance of all rules to avoid what were commonly called SNAFU's.

The Regiment went into action with its full complement of vehicles, weapons and stores and even managed a small surplus that permitted "A" Squadron to trade a Jeep to the crew of the LSV that took them to France for a large supply of American "jam, Spam and ham". Similar exchanges became commonplace during the days of fighting.

## **PETWORTH PARK AND OTHER PLACES**

In May 1942 the Regiment changed places with the 7th Recce (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) of 3 Div. and took over a huttet camp in Pheasant Copse at Petworth Park. It was fine during the summer but, oh, when winter and the rains came! There were no hard standings and vehicles had to be maintained in a sea of mud. That they were kept road-worthy was a great credit to their crews and drew favourable comment from Maj. Gen. H. Roberts during a "spot" inspection. The General had been under some pressure from his infantry commanders to provide better facilities for vehicle maintenance. He told them "If you think you've got troubles, go visit the 8th Recce."

"Tip and run" raids by single German aircraft were plaguing the south of England in 1942 and one raider surprised and bombed a detachment of the Regiment about to entrain at Pulborough for an exercise in Scotland. Fortunately there were no casualties. Less fortunate was the Petworth School which received a direct hit. The Regiment assisted the local Civil Defence authorities in rescue operations. It was a tragic occurrence and few families in the district escaped the loss or serious maiming of a youngster.



Petworth Park was shared with the Toronto Scottish, the 2 Div. Support Regiment. It was the beginning of a long association with this fine Regiment and in action we were to work very closely with the Tor Scots. Some will remember our New Year's Eve celebration and its aftermath.

In the spring of 1943 the Regiment moved to Fernhurst, a pleasant camp nestled in a valley midway between Midhurst and Haslemere. Our sojourn was enlivened when the Officer's Mess was partially burned down and the CO, 2 i/c, Adjutant and Sqn OC's were left homeless. They moved under canvas with the rest of us slobes. Toughening up training was the general order at Fernhurst with progressively longer route marches scheduled, ending with a 20 mile hike in one day. We made it.

In the fall of 1943 8th Recce moved to the coast and was billeted at Angmering-on-Sea, playground of the wealthy before the war. The houses requisitioned provided the best "diggings" and times enjoyed by all ranks during our time in England.

## **ALL ABOUT PEOPLE**

Gradual but continuous changes in personnel took place during the three years the Regiment trained in England. Some have already been recorded. Major Petch left to command the North Nova Scotia Highlanders of 3 Div to be succeeded as 2 i/c by Major B. M. Alway. RSM "Spud" Murphey died of cancer in 1942 and was succeeded by RSM Whittingstall. RSM "Tex" Allison became RSM in 1944 and RSM CL Smith early in 1945.

A change in the war establishment in 1942 permitted an additional officer for each Scout Troop and there was an influx of "Loocys" to be billeted in the infamous "rat's nest" at Pheasant Copse. Included among them were a number of former NCO's of the Regiment who had completed their Officer's Training in England.

Sickness and accidents also took their toll and many men were invalided back to Canada. In late 1943 those over 39 years of age were withdrawn from the field units. It was a tough blow for these "oldies" who had stood up to the rigors of training and were now denied the opportunity to go into action with their buddies. The 31st Recce stationed in Canada was disbanded in 1944 and a number of their NCO's and men were assimilated into the 8th Recce. Without exception they proved themselves worthy members of the Regiment.

Senior Officers moved on and others moved up and the same thing occurred with the WO's and NCO's. Even more drastic changes lay ahead when enemy action and the stress and strain of combat took a more deadly toll.

## **WAR ISN'T ALWAYS HELL**

Apart from the monotonous regularity with which corned beef, herrings in tomato sauce and "horse cock" appeared on the daily menu, life in the service during these years in England was not altogether unpleasant. Seven day leaves and 48 hour passes gave regular breaks. The Officers and Sergeants held regular mess parties which kept life from becoming too humdrum. For the troops the Auxiliary Services did their best and the "Sally Ann" ran regular picture shows and held troop dances. The ubiquitous NAAFI was always there to serve weak tea and give a break during the day from

routine chores. And there was the village "pub" where the boys could gather of an evening and challenge the locals at darts.

Sports rated high with "Dashing Freddie" and success in fastball, composite track and field and in boxing helped to maintain morale and give the Regiment a sense of accomplishment.

The English, Welsh and Scottish people — with their country overrun with friendly invaders — were kind to us. Romantic attachments were many and varied with the more virile carrying on several at one time. The 8th Recce came home with their share of war brides. Pleasant as it was we had come to this country to fight and there was still a war to be won. It was discouraging to see other units and formations who had been over a much shorter time go into action ahead of us. But in the early Spring of 1944 our chance was soon to come.

## **AND IT WON'T BE LONG NOW**

In 1944 England was an armed camp and the words "D" Day were no longer whispered. Stores, ammunition and new vehicles were received almost daily. The tempo of training was stepped up. Drivers of all vehicles were sent on vehicle water-proofing courses. 3 Div was re-classified the 3rd Canadian ASSAULT Division which came as a distinct disappointment to 2 Div who had hoped for this role. The Regiment was inspected by a number of VIP's including HM George VI, Monty, Lt. Gen. Guy Simmonds who had recently taken over command of 2nd Canadian Corps and, finally, "Ike" Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander.

In the midst of all this, Lt. Col. Vokes was ordered to Italy to command the B.C. Dragoons of 5 Div. Freddy was killed in action in Italy in July 1944. Rough, tough and gruff, Lt. Col. Vokes had been something unique in the way of a CO but he knew how to handle a recce regiment and how it should be employed. His successor, Lt. Col. B. M. Alway, inherited a proud and well-trained unit. Major Alec Ballachey moved up to become 2 i/c.

The south coast of England was cleared for the assembling of the assault forces and 2 Div moved to a concentration area in East Kent in April 1944. The 8th Recce went under canvas at Goodnestone Park near Canterbury. The whole south of England was sealed off, all leaves were cancelled and movement was confined within the sealed-off area to a radius of 15 miles from camp.

Then on the morning of 6 Jun 44 — "D" Day — the Allied landings in Normandy were broadcast over the BBC. The long wait was nearly over. Shortly afterwards the Regimental advance party consisting of the CO, QM, IO and CO's driver-batman left in a Jeep to proceed to France. On 29 Jun 44 stand-by orders were issued to Major Ballachey and on 1 July the 8th Recce broke camp and moved to the embarkation assembly in London's east dock area. At the time London was under heavy attack from the VI's — Hitler's buzz bombs — and it was not a pleasant stay. On 4 July 44 the Regiment embarked on a number of LSV's and sailed for the Normandy Beaches. We were met on 6 July by the advance party and after a night to re-group 8th Recce moved to Carpiquet airfield near Caen.

## **ACTION AT LAST!**

The British and Canadian bridgehead was contained at Caen by strong German forces and the armies were in close contact all around the perimeter. There was no immediate role for Recce but there was a need for additional troops on the ground. This led to a decision by higher command to employ the 8th Recce as infantry. The Regiment was hastily formed into four Squadrons (a brand new role for IIQ Squadron) of four Troops, each of which was padded with Sqn IIQ personnel to conform to infantry establishment.

That evening the Regiment went in to the line — to revert to World War I parlance — and relieved the Regiment de la Chaudiere at Le Mesnil. This rather exposed position overlooked the approaches to the River Orne just west of Caen and was under almost continuous artillery and mortar fire.

The ordeal lasted better than a week until the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade mounted an attack which drove the Germans from their positions and cleared the area through to the Orne.

The Regiment was withdrawn for a few days but then went in to relieve the Calgary Highlanders at Beauvoir Farm near Ifs, south of Caen. Positions here were in open fields in full view of strong enemy positions at May-sur-Orne. Again a steady diet of bomb and shell was endured. For the first time we came under bombardment from the "moaning Minnies". Movement was done at night; by day we kept our heads down. We weren't sorry to be relieved in late July.

Most of us feel the employment of the Regimental as infantry was a mistake regardless of the need. Recce personnel are highly trained, each for a special job. The heavy casualties suffered, seriously hampered the Regiment's efficiency when it returned to its accustomed role. It was some time before the deficiencies in key personnel could be made good. On the credit side it was a tremendous boost to regimental moral. We had conducted ourselves creditably in a difficult and strange role in our first taste of action and we were the first unit of 2 Div to go into battle.

## **BACK TO RECCE**

In early August 8th Recce prepared for Operation Totalize; a brain-child of Lt. Gen. Simmonds. It was designed to penetrate deep into enemy positions south of Caen by shock action and the sheer weight of metal. Flail tanks would lead the advance and detonate mines. Tanks would follow along with infantry mounted in armoured carriers. The attack would take place at night and direction would be kept by searchlights beaming along the line of advance, by Bofors firing incendiary AA along the same axis and by the Engineers laying tapes from special tanks. The whole affair would enjoy heavy air and artillery coverage.

8th Recce, with a squadron of tanks from the Fort Garry Horse, a troop of flails and a detachment of AVRE's under command was given the task of moving down the Caen-Falaise axis with the remainder of 2 Div on their right and the 53rd Highland Division on their left. The operation commenced in the twilight of 7 Aug. The vast armada of armoured vehicles assembling south of Caen raised such dense clouds of dust that the only things discernible were the vehicles immediately in front and behind and occasionally to each flank. When the advance began searchlights lit up the

sky and tracers flashed along the axis as scheduled. From a distance it was an awe inspiring sight. Unfortunately, the beauty was missed by the troops on the ground who couldn't see it. The tapes helped but the whole movement seemed to be in state of some confusion as it rumbled towards the German positions.

8th Recce was held up when the three leading tanks of the Fort Garry Horse were put out of action and set ablaze. Major Dick Porteous commanding "A" Sqn in the lead was able to organize a clearing party and silence the enemy 88 which caused the damage. Some order was restored and patrols moved forward on foot. For his actions Major Porteous was awarded the DSO. The Regiment laagered where it was until daylight. Although a considerable penetration had taken place it had not been as deep as had been anticipated. However, following heavy tank engagements on the 8 and 9 August the Germans were forced to withdraw and the road to Falaise lay open. 8th Recce was regrouped and participated in the move south to Falaise covering the advance of 2 Div. Major Ballachey was killed at this time and Major J. F. Merner was in consequence, promoted to 2 i/c. On 17 August, Falaise fell to the Allies with elements of the 8th Recce amongst the first to enter the town.

With the fall of Falaise it was obvious that the Germans could not contain the Allies in Normandy. With General Patton's U.S. Third Army sweeping down on Paris, the Germans had no option but to withdraw and regroup east of the Seine. This they succeeded in doing with considerable equipment and a large part of their forces intact. They made skillful use of the rivers which cross the northern plains of France and each night, it seemed, the advance would be halted by a blown bridge across one of these water obstacles. By the time they were bridged the enemy was well on his way to the east.

In this chase the 8th Recce finally came in to its own, especially when we were able to convince the Brigadiers to let us operate on our own, unhindered by the restrictions imposed by the necessity of conforming to strict infantry movement and battle drill. Moving out of harbour just before daybreak the Squadrons would cover the distance to their start points in a short time and by first light were patrolling along their allotted center lines. In open country the light Arcs led, darting quickly forward covered by the heavier guns of the Foxhounds who would deal with any resistance encountered. In close country or built-up areas the heavy Arcs led, leap-frogging from one vantage point to another. Small enemy pockets were bypassed and left to the following Carrier Sections and the Assault Troops. When resistance stiffened along the whole front or an obstacle such as a river was encountered, contact was maintained until the infantry could move up and take over. This was recce at its classic best and was to reach a fine point of refinement by the end of the war.

The advance of 2 Div was slowed down at the Forêt de la Londe and brought to a short halt near Elboeuf on the bend of the Seine River below Rouen. After some difficulty a crossing was effected by the 5th Cdn Infantry Brigade and with "C" Sqn they took up positions on the high ground south of the city. Preparations for an attack were made but when the Squadron moved cautiously into Rouen they were greeted by a populace literally gone mad. The Germans had left, and the road to Dieppe was open. With their vehicles festooned with flowers, their crews "bussed" by thousands of

delirious citizens of both sexes, their arms piled high with bottles of wine that had been hoarded during the long occupation, the men of the 8th Recce moved through Rouen as "Liberators". It was a scene to be repeated many times as the Canadians moved across the north of France.

The move to Dieppe was temporarily halted when "C" Squadron ran into a fleeing enemy column at Totes. Resuming the advance the following morning "A" Sqn was first to enter Dieppe at 9:00 AM to find the enemy had left the night before. The town was declared cleared by noon and the 4th and 6th Canadian Infantry Brigades entered. 19 August 1941 had been avenged. A victory celebration followed, culminating in a Divisional Parade before General Crerar, Commanding First Canadian Army, on 3 Sept.

## **BELGIUM AND HOLLAND**

The 2nd British Army to our south had driven the Germans into Belgium and had advanced to Brussels and finally to Antwerp freeing that great port as a supply center for the Allied Armies. On 5 Sep, while 3 Div moved along the coast to clear Boulogne and Calais, 2 Div moved close to the Belgium border to invest Dunkirk. That city held out in a suicidal resistance and rather than waste men on a point that no longer had any military value it was decided to simply contain the town, lobbing a shell in now and then just to let the Germans know we were still around. It was not exactly an exciting role and we were glad to be relieved by a Special Service Brigade of the British Army on 17 Sep 44.

8th Recce then moved through Flanders past Poperinge and Ypres of World War I memory and through Ghent to the town of Lier midway between Brussels and Antwerp. Some patrolling and fighting took place along the Albert Canal which was finally crossed on 23 September. The Regiment settled down in the Brasschaert area north of Antwerp during the initial stages of clearing the Scheldt for Allied shipping. Some patrol activity was carried out but in the main it was a quiet period. With Brussels and Antwerp in Allied hands, the stores were open, with a night life of sorts going on and the troops were able to enjoy short leaves in these two cities. At this time Antwerp came under attack from the V-2's and one of these missiles fell short of its prime target and hit alongside of an area being used by 11 Troop. Four men were killed and 13 others wounded.

To open the channel to Antwerp which was essential to the maintenance of the allied drive, 2 Div was given the job of clearing the area north of the Scheldt and moved out on to the Beveland causeway in late October. By the 29th the Regiment along with the infantry had captured Goes on South Beveland and this area was cleared of the enemy. The Scheldt operation continued until 8 Nov when Walchern Island fell to a sea-borne assault by special troops of the British army. During the Beveland operation "A" Squadron engaged in its own little war and, mounting an amphibious assault, captured North Beveland Island. This is dealt with elsewhere in this Journal but it was an unusual operation and gained considerable publicity.

With the Scheldt area clear, the Regiment was withdrawn to Brussels for a rest and refit. Monty's bold and imaginative plan to capture the bridges at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnheim by paratroopers and open the gates for an assault on Germany had failed. The Allied armies now had to hold the line until Antwerp could be made ready and supplies built up for a final offensive against Germany.

Driving steadily, if slowly, for 16 hours in pouring rain the Regiment along with 2 Div moved from Brussels to positions along the Waal River west of Nijmegen. It was strictly a Chinese move—"one long hop". In these new positions movement was held to a minimum and then mostly on foot. The only roads sat on top of the dikes and with rain falling endlessly they were deep in mud. Foot patrols were maintained but with the wide Waal between us and the enemy little activity was noted with the exception of the odd party who sneaked across but did little damage.

On 20 December 44 we moved to the east of Nijmegen for more of the same. The Regiment was based on Haps with the Squadrons forward along the Maas River. The Battle of the Bulge threw a bit of a scare into those occupying the area at this time but Montgomery's foresight had protected our flanks and we were pretty confident the line would hold. In this way the early winter of 1944/45 passed in relative inactivity but in something less than ideal living conditions. A liberal issue of rum made life bearable and the first leaves to England offered a respite from war for the lucky ones whose names were drawn.

## THE FINAL PUSH

In early February Monty mounted his attack against the Siegfried Line in the Reichwald and Hochwald Forests. The offensive opened with an overture from 1,000 guns firing 1,000 rounds apiece. The 8th Recce could not be used in the dense confines of the Reichwald and Hochwald Forests but when these places were cleared reconnaissance patrols worked eastward towards Calcar and Xanten helping to clear the enemy from the area west of the Rhine. It was tough work and the Regiment suffered a considerable number of casualties to both men and vehicles.

Fighting on enemy soil was not the fearful thing we thought it would be. Farmyards abounded with poultry and livestock driven in from the occupied countries. As Conquerors we helped ourselves. Fresh meat for a change was a welcome relief from "compo" with its inevitable "M and V".

8th Recce and the Tor Scots held positions along the Rhine while 2 Div prepared for its crossing. Only the river separated our long front from the Germans but there was little danger of his crossing over. He did send his calling card occasionally in brief bursts of shellfire but that was all. Following a saturation bombing from the air, 3 Div secured a bridgehead across the Rhine at Wesel and 8th Recce crossed over on the night of 28/29 March. A thrust was made up the right bank to Emmerich—completely destroyed by air bombardment—and then the Regiment swung right to lead the advance up through Holland.

This advance brought the Regiment back on to a recce role and with first one Squadron and then another in the lead, 8th Recce moved north to Groningen and then to Delfzijl on the North Sea. Gains of 20 to 30 miles a day were made. The infantry, mounted on armoured troop carriers, followed close behind and constant pressure was kept on the retreating enemy.

ARC patrols, now using Daimlers with their two pounder guns, led the advance. Engineer officers were kept forward with the leading elements and small obstacles were quickly bridged and no longer held up the advance. FOO's (Forward Observation Officers) were also well forward and artillery fire could be brought down within minutes of contact and it was not unusual

at this stage to find the leading Scout Car Commander directing and correcting the fire of the Divisional Artillery on some hapless German rear-guard who must have wondered what they had done to earn all this unwelcome attention. The Carrier Sections and the Assault Troops were now carrying a number of .30 and .50 calibre Browning Machine Guns "liberated" from damaged vehicles and they could deal severely with any pockets of resistance left to their tender mercies. The three inch Mortar and the Anti-tank guns were kept well up with the lead troops and could be quickly called upon to sweeten up the fire of the Scout Troops.

An Air Intelligence Liaison Officer — shortened to "Pigeon" — was available at RIHQ and could bring rocket carrying Typhoons to deal with enemy 88's. This wonderful German weapon dominated the battlefield at times and we had no single weapon on the ground that could cope with it. The ever present Airforce and a preponderance of artillery was our only answer. The 88's took their toll right up to the end of the fighting and it is sad to relate they knocked off three of our Arcs killing three men and seriously wounding three others on the last day of the war.

With the Germans driven out of North Holland 2 Div pushed on towards Delmenhorst and Oldenburg in Germany in the dying days of World War II. Little fighting took place and it was a case of rounding up thousands of war-weary German prisoners.

At this time Lt. Col. B. M. Alway, who had received the DSO for distinguished service commanding the Regiment, returned to Canada on rotation leave. He had commanded the 8th Recce for something over a year and had led it in action for better than eight months. Major "Butch" Merner moved up to command the Regiment with Major D. S. F. Bult-Francis as 2 i/c.

On May 3 Oldenburg fell to 2 Div and 8th Recce moved north of the town. Fighting was spasmodic and confined to isolated fanatical groups of the German SS. The end was clearly in sight. On the night of 4 May word came over the BBC that the Germans were surrendering to Field Marshal Montgomery the following day. During the night official word was passed on to the Squadrons to hold present positions and take no further offensive action against the enemy. For the 8th Recce the war was over.

For the first week following the fighting the 8th Recce remained in the Oldenburg area and was then moved to Leer on the Dutch-German border to assist in the movement of the German army from Holland back into Germany. This exodus took several days as the thoroughly defeated and bedraggled remnants of Hitler's once-mighty Wehrmacht plodded their way home on foot.

A number of the Regiment who had volunteered for duty with the Occupation Army moved to Holland to join the 2 7 Recce which was part of the occupation forces. When Lt. Col. Merner was given command of the 2/7 Major Bult-Francis took over command of the 8th Recce with Major George Wood as his 2 i/c. The Regiment then moved, first to Elburg in Holland and then to Hilversum, from which point they eventually went to England and sailed for home. Major Bult-Francis along with a number of the senior officers had been posted to the Occupation Army and the honor of leading the 8th Recce back to Swift Current, Saskatchewan for demobilization fell to Major Gordon Good. The wonderful welcome the boys received at Swift Current is recorded elsewhere. They earned it.

## TO THOSE THAT HELPED

No history of the Regiment would be complete without some mention of the many people who were not part of the 8th Recce but helped us in battle. A Salute, then —

To the French, Belgian and Dutch underground who prepared the ground and helped thicken our front.

To the RCCS and the Signal Section that kept us in contact with higher formations and maintained our wireless sets.

To the RCEME whose LAD kept our vehicles in repair.

To the RCOC whose artificers kept our guns firing.

To the RCASC who kept us fed and clothed and made sure no man had to turn his back on the enemy to get ammunition.

To the Padres who comforted our sick and buried our dead and were a source of consolation to all who needed it.

To the Auxiliary War Services who maintained a steady supply of creature comforts throughout the fighting.

To the Dental Corps who before "Crest" made sure we had fewer cavities than any other unit.

And finally a salute to the Medical Services and 8th Recce's own beloved Medical Sergeant Pat Paterson. Our wounded were in good hands.

## PROLOGUE

From the time the 8th Recce went in to the line at Le Mesnil in July until the fighting stopped north of Oldenburg on 5 May, the Regiment had been in almost daily contact with the enemy. It had guarded 2 Div's center line across Northwest Europe and its line was never penetrated. 8th Recce had the proud distinction of being the first unit of the Division to go into action and the last to leave when hostilities ceased. The reputation for always doing its job and a little more was dearly bought and proudly maintained.

By the end of 1945 most of the Regiment had returned to civilian life and the 14th Canadian Hussars became custodians of our Battle Honors. The following names were added to the Regimental Standard:

Caen	South Beveland
Falaise	Twente Canal
The Seine 1944	Groningen
Antwerp-Turnhout Canal	Oldenburg
The Scheldt	Northwest Europe 1944-45

It is our hope that those who serve with the 14th Canadian Hussars, whether in its present reserve status or in some future conflict, will read the honours emblazoned on their flag and spare a moment to remember the gallant men of the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment who put them there and those of their number, who gave their lives in the effort.



**Commanders of senior formations of the Canadian army under whom  
8th CANADIAN RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT  
served in World War II**

**First Canadian Army**

Lt. Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, CB, CMG, DSO	2 Dec 42 - 26 Dec 43
Gen. H. D. G. Crerar, CB, DSO	20 Mar 44 - 30 Jul 45

**1st Canadian Corps**

Lt. Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, CB, CMG, DSO	19 Jul 40 - 5 Apr 42
Lt. Gen. H. D. G. Crerar, CB, DSO	6 Apr 42 - 19 Mar 44
Lt. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, DSO, OBE, MC	20 Mar 44 - 5 Nov 44
Lt. Gen. C. Foulkes, CB, CBE, DSO	10 Nov 44 - 17 Jul 45

**2nd Canadian Corps**

Lt. Gen. E. W. Samson, CB, DSO	15 Jan 43 - 29 Jan 44
Lt. Gen. G. G. Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO	30 Jan 44 - 25 Jan 45

**2nd Canadian Infantry Division**

Maj. Gen. V. W. Odlum, CB, CMG, DSO, VD	20 May 40 - 6 Nov 41
Maj. Gen. H. D. G. Crerar, DSO	23 Dec 41 - 5 Apr 42
Maj. Gen. J. H. Roberts, DSO, MC	6 Apr 42 - 12 Apr 43
Maj. Gen. G. G. Simonds, CBE	13 Apr 43 - 28 Apr 43
Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, OBE, MC	6 May 43 - 10 Jan 44
Maj. Gen. C. Foulkes, CBE	11 Jan 44 - 9 Nov 44
Maj. Gen. A. B. Mathews, CBE, DSO, ED	10 Nov 44 - 6 Oct 45

**Order of Battle "F" echelon**  
**2nd CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION**  
**World War II**

**Canadian Armoured Corps**

8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars)

**Royal Canadian Artillery**

4th Field Regiment

5th Field Regiment

6th Field Regiment

2nd Anti-Tank Regiment

3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment

**Canadian Infantry Corps**

The Toronto Scottish Regiment (M.G.)

4th Infantry Brigade

The Royal Regiment of Canada

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry

The Essex Scottish Regiment

5th Infantry Brigade

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada

Le Regiment de Maisonneuve

The Calgary Highlanders

6th Infantry Brigade

Les Fusiliers Mont Royal

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

The South Saskatchewan Regiment

**Royal Canadian Engineers**

**Royal Canadian Corps of Signals**

**SOME HISTORIC PRONOUNCEMENTS**  
**of**  
**World War II**

**DECLARATION OF WAR**

Now therefor We do hereby Declare and Proclaim that a State of War with the German Reich exists and has existed in Our Dominion of Canada as and from the tenth day of September, 1939.

*Canada Gazette 10 Sep. 1939*

**FINAL SURRENDER**

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS — RHEIMS — The following is the text of the military surrender:

**ACT OF MILITARY SURRENDER**

1. We the undersigned, acting by authority of the German High Command, hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command, all forces on land, sea, and in the air who are at this date under German control.

2. The German High Command will at once issue orders to all German military, naval, and air authorities and to all forces under German control to cease active operations at 2301 hours Central European Time on 8 May and to remain in the positions occupied at that time. No ship, vessel, or aircraft is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment.

3. The German High Command will at once issue to the appropriate commanders and ensure the carrying out of further orders issued by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary force and by the Soviet High Command.

4. This act of military surrender is without prejudice to, and will be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by, on behalf of the United Nations and applicable to Germany and the German armed forces as a whole.

5. In the event of the German High Command or any of the forces under their central control failing to act in accordance with this Act of Surrender, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and the Soviet High Command will take such punitive or any other action as they deem appropriate.

Signed at Rheims, France, at 0241 Hours on the 7th of May, 1945.

**"A" SQUADRON**

(received by L/C Laurie)

QLC to ALL Stations — 0549 — Guns to be laid on DF tasks only during night. All guns to be emptied 0800 hrs. 5th May 1945.

QLC to J. — 0555 — Cancel all offensive operations forthwith. CEASE FIRE 0800 hrs. 5th May 1945.

## Message from C-in-C 21 ARMY GROUP

Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery has addressed the following victory message to all of his officers and men in 21 Army Group:

"On this day of victory in Europe I feel I would like to speak to all who have served and fought with me during the last few years. What I have to say is very simple, and quite short.

"I would ask you all to remember those of our comrades who fell in the struggle. They gave their lives that others might have freedom, and no man can do more than that. I believe that He would say to each one of them: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

"And we who remain have seen the thing through to the end; we all have a feeling of great joy and thankfulness that we have been preserved to see this day. We must remember to give the praise and thankfulness where it is due: 'This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.'

"In the early days of this war the British Empire stood alone against the combined might of the Axis powers. And during those days we suffered some great disasters; but we stood firm: on the defensive, but striking blows where we could. Later we were joined by Russia and America; and from then onwards the end was in no doubt. Let us never forget what we owe to our Russian and American allies; this great Allied team has achieved much in war; may it achieve even more in peace.

"Without doubt, great problems lie ahead; the world will not recover quickly from the upheaval that has taken place; there is much work for each one of us.

"I would say that we must face up to that work with the same fortitude that we faced up to the worst days of this war. It may be that some difficult times lie ahead for our country, and for each one of us personally. If it happens thus, then our discipline will pull us through; but we must remember that the best discipline implies the subordination of self for the benefit of the community.

"It has been a privilege and an honor to command this great British Empire team in Western Europe. Few commanders can have had such loyal service as you have given me. I thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart.

"And so let us embark on what lies ahead full of joy and optimism. We have won the German war. Let us now win the peace.

"Good luck to you all, wherever you may be."

(Signed)

B. L. MONTGOMERY,  
Field-Marshal, C-in-C.,  
21 Army Group

Germany, May, 1945.

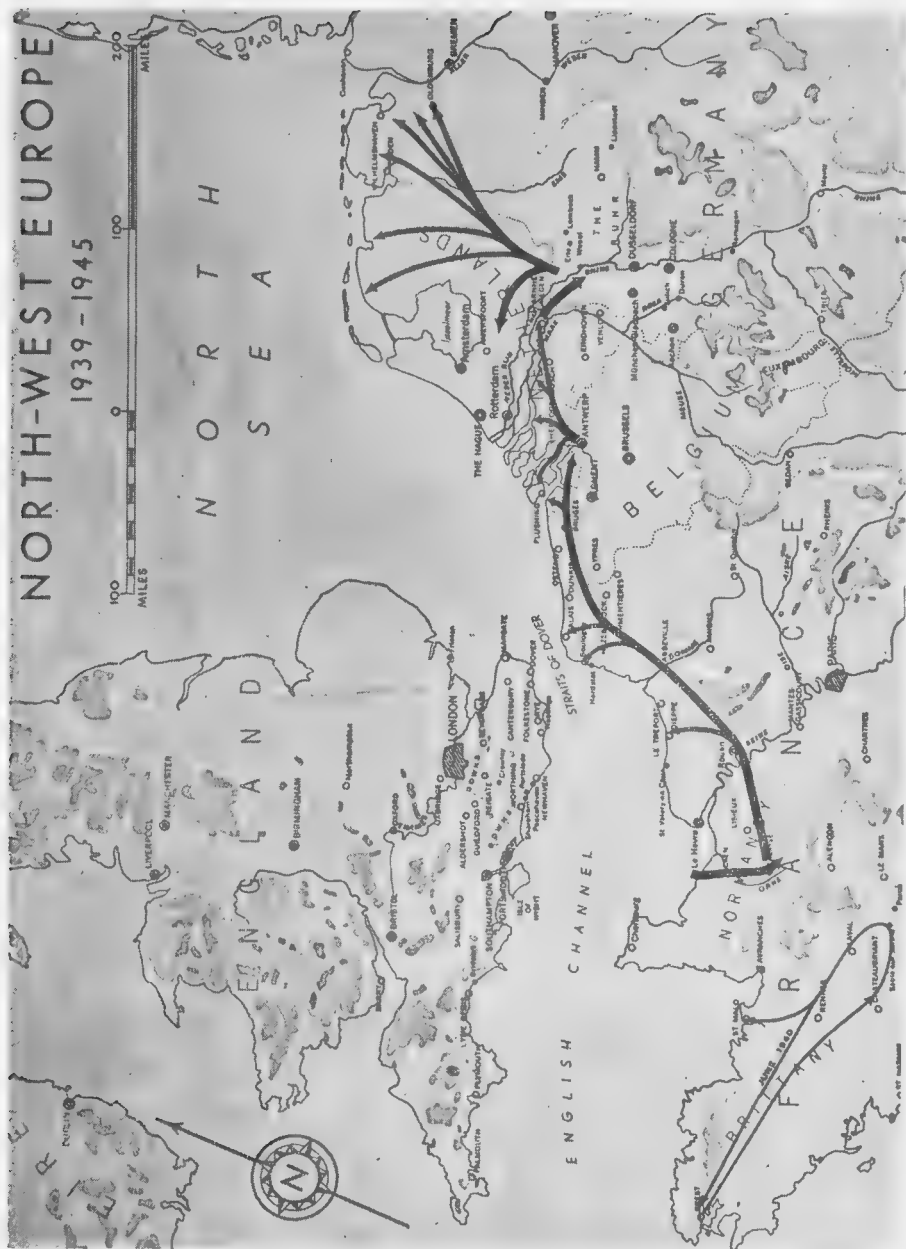
## **Part of the Speech of SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL**

"Hostilities will end at one minute after midnight tonight, Tuesday, May 8, but in the interests of saving lives, the cease fire began yesterday to the thousands of troops along the fronts. Our dear Channel Islands are to be freed today. The Germans are still, in places, resisting the Russian troops but should they continue to do so after midnight, they will deprive themselves of the protection of the laws of war and will be attacked from all quarters by Allied troops. It is not surprising that on such long fronts, the commands of the German High Command should not be obeyed immediately."

"Today we shall think most of ourselves," Mr. Churchill said. "But tomorrow we shall pay a particular tribute to our heroic Russian comrades. Theirs has been one of the grand contributions to the general victory."

"The German War is therefore at an end," he continued. Reviewing briefly the chronological sequence of the war, he then reminded the world that "Japan remains to be subdued" and he promised that Great Britain and the Empire would throw all of their resources into the task to the end that Japan's "detestable cruelties should meet with justice and retribution."

"Advance Britannia! Long live the cause of Freedom! God Save The King!"



## THE LONG LONG TRAIL

The trail of the 8th which began in France, went through the following towns:

France — Courselles, Bonneville, Bayeux, Le Villeneuve, Carpiquet, Caen, Bretteville, Ifs, Louvigny, Rocquincourt, Barbéry, Falaise, Orbec, Bouionnec, Le Boulle, El Boeuf, Rouen, Totes, Dieppe, Abbeville, Bergues, Pitgam, Dunkirque, Bray Dunes.

Belgium — Bulscamp, Veurnes, Nieuport, Coxyde, Oost Dunkirque, Dunkirque, Baines, Le Panne, Warmhondt, Poperinge, Ypres, St. Julien, Poelcappelle, Rouliers, Pittham, Thielt, Ghent, Nettern, Zele, Termonde, Willebrock, Lier, Viersel, Ranst, Wommelgham, Wyneghen, Gravennezel, St. Jobicourt, Brasschaert, Coppellen, Stabroeck, Berendredt, Santvliet, Schooten, Turnhout, Antwerp, Brussels.

Holland — Ossendrecht, Putte, Rilland, Cappelle, Gravenpolder, Goes, Leizingen, Erst, Bergen Op Zoom, Woensdrecht, Tilburg s' Hertogenbosch, Boernhurst, Grave, Berenberg, Altforst, Alphen, Druemel, Wamel, Druten, Wenssen, Nijmegen, Appledorn, Bantenberg, Mill, Haps, St. Antonnes, Box meer, Breda, Oosterdijk, Malden, Mocek, Gennep, Megenelen, Netterden, Gendrigen, Ulfst, Silvalde, Terborg, Gaanderen, Doctinchen, Hengelo, Vorgen, Raalte, Hellendom, Temer, Ommen, Balkburg, Kergenbosch, Hoogeven, Eurzinge, Westerbrock, Zuidlaren, Hoogezand, Groningen, Siddeburen, Assen, Hooghalen, Spier, Eeksta, Slochteren, Nordbrock, Hardenburg, Laren, Arnhem, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Appledorn, Elberg, Kampen.

Germany — Cleve, Reichwald Forest, Hassel, Moyland, Qualburg, Calcar, Hochwald Forest, Marienbaum, Warbayen, Emmerich, Kellen, Gennenberg, Rees, Noumter, Speldrop, Esserden, Milingen, Clappenberg, Haseclunne, Tonningen, Tingen, Aelmenhorst, Hude, Wildeshausen, Oldenburg, Lingen, Rheine, Osnabruck, Aurich, Wiener.

## Swift Current Out En Masse To Welcome Home 8th Recce

Sunday morning up-town in Swift Current looked like the usual hang-over the day after a Frontier Day's celebration. It had a frowsy look, dishevelled, forlorn—about like a bachelor's Last Supper. But the night before, well, that was a different story. Sunday morning the streets were dirty with millions of bits of paper, and colored confetti, which swirled around and around in the chilly wind. But Saturday night—that was stuff floating down on the heads of a stalwart bunch of men home from the wars, while a military band played, people cheered and clapped, shivered in a cold wind but gave them the hottest welcome anyone ever got in this neck of the woods.

It was the return of the 8th Recce Regiment! There were scarcely a half dozen city or district men in the nearly three hundred who detrained here at 7:20 p.m., but each one of them whether from the fruit belts or Pacific-ocean-washed parts of British Columbia or the foothills of Alberta, the gold mines of Quebec or the fish-smelling villages of Nova Scotia, must have warmed to the hearty reception.

Swift Current did itself proud. As a veteran newspaperman from Regina told *The Sun*: "This is as good, and I think a better show than Weyburn put on for its South Saskatchewan Regiment and they had hundreds of their own lads coming home. I know because I covered that affair, too."

### There Were Family Re-Unions

It was too bad the train had to be brought in at night. Visibility certainly was poor on the C.P.R. depot platform. But the strings of colored lights along Central avenue, the festoons of flags, the big "across the street" Welcome Home sign, the light standards each with an 8th Recce battle designation, the band, the confetti, the tons of paper floating down from buildings, the cheering of thousands of adults and children and the streets packed with humanity along the parade route was really something—even if it was cold and raw.

Nearly a score of trucks were ready along the side of the tracks when the train pulled in, and it wasn't long before baggage had been unloaded and piled high on the vehicles.

From a number of places in Saskatchewan, relatives had come in to meet their husbands, sons or sweethearts. The rush into loving arms, the happiness, was something to be seen and not forgotten. Here a mother and father, here a wife, here the kiddies. It was unashamed happiness in the extreme. Radio Station CHAB had a hookup and there were snappy interviews with veterans and civic dignitaries.

Then the march up town behind the military band from Regina. The men marched proudly and well because for official purposes they were "home". Tomorrow? well, that was different. They might scatter to all parts of the Dominion, but Saturday Swift Current was "home".



## Civic Welcome

At the Central-Cheadle intersection the salute was taken on a raised dias by Mayor Rutherford and Brigadier Trudeau, District Officer Commanding, Military District No. 12, Regina, and then came the official welcome on a platform in front of the Oddfellows hall. Here Rev. C. Younger-Lewis welcomed the men of the 8th Recce, drawn up along the street, and called on Mayor Ken Rutherford, who in a brief address handed them the verbal keys of the city and expressed for the citizens of Swift Current their appreciation at being honored as hosts to the regiment.

Brigadier Trudeau welcomed the men back to Canada and thanked them for the glorious chapter they had written into the history of this country.

Obviously filled with sentiment, the 8th Recce's officer commanding, Major Good, spoke to his men in what to most of them was his farewell address. He lauded their gallantry in battle and told them how proud he was of their splendid conduct and deportment since leaving the Old Country and on the trip homeward. He said it had been a pleasure and honor to serve with them. And the thousands gathered, cheered some more!

Next door at the Elks hall, over two-score staff personnel from M.D. 12 at Regina were on hand to smoothly and efficiently document the returning men and furnish them with pay and transportation warrants to their various destinations. After the men were documented they proceeded to the Oddfellows hall where lunch had been prepared for them. They were each given, on behalf of the citizens of Swift Current, a package containing cigarettes, chocolate and a handsome souvenir booklet which contained invitations to a dance, theatre passes, tickets for meals at restaurants up town and tickets entitling them to "mugs of suds" at various places.

Then the men, most of them, hurried up town to get acquainted with the folks who had given them such a rousing reception.

Officers were guests at a dinner in the Piccadilly later in the evening and otherwise entertained.

Considering the fact that the day and time of their arrival had been kept a "secret" and then at the last minute changed, the local committee can be credited with doing a marvelous job. If there were any slight inconvenient hitches in the arrangements, they were minor, and didn't amount to much. The whole affair took weeks and weeks of planning.

## NOTES ON SATURDAY NIGHT

Major Gordon A. Good, Winnipeg, Officer Commanding the Recces, said it was a "wonderful reception . . . I have talked with the boys and they all are loud in their praise of the wonderful hospitality by the people of Swift Current . . . we certainly were treated royally."

☆ ☆ ☆

A sergeant from Montreal said: "Why did I come all the way out here instead of staying off at home? Well, I was with the 8th all the way through and they were such a swell bunch of fellows I wanted to see what the country they lived in looked like. I stuck to the end and sure am not sorry. What a reception!"

☆ ☆ ☆

The committee had 82 billets provided for and only one was made use of, outside of two truck loads of the lads who were taken out to the Experimental Station. Charlie Masur had a desk at the Healy for billeting

purposes. Many of the men who were going out early in the morning, didn't want to disturb people, slept on benches and on the floor at the depot. It wasn't so long between the end of the dance and train-time anyway.

☆ ☆ ☆

Some of the cafes kept going very late for the boys, but Vic's Coffee Shop across from the Imperial was an all-nite spot for hungry Recces. Two CWAC's from Regina and two Sergeants helped out washing dishes through the night while Sgt. Ron White and Sgt. Vic Hadler of the local unit served 'em, and in uniform, too. Sometimes three-deep with 8th men, cafe people tell us that they never served a nicer and more mannerly set of customers. What they wanted most was weiners, ice cream and coffee—and they got lots of it.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Recce adjutant said his unit boasted two Distinguished Service Orders, two Distinguished Conduct Medals, eight Military Crosses, over a dozen Military Medals. They were proud of their record "First in action, last out."

☆ ☆ ☆

Uniformed Miss Canada girls handed out the souvenir packages in the Elks hall for the men as they were documented and the nice looking girls had also made the packages up themselves the day before.

☆ ☆ ☆

The guard of honor provided by the 8th Recce Reserve Unit of Swift Current and district, was drawn up at the east end of the depot under Capt. R. J. R. Bonneland. They were inspected and complimented by Major Good.

☆ ☆ ☆

Chief Walker and his police did a very fine job on traffic and keeping crowds in check, without stinting their enthusiasm. Things were well regulated considering the crowd.

☆ ☆ ☆

In the windows above T. Eatons store some ladies really gave the soldiers marching past a dishpan welcome. They had everything but the kitchen sink out as noise makers.

☆ ☆ ☆

From the top storey of the W. W. Cooper store, a tremendous shower of paper cuttings floated down as the 8th Recce marched behind the band up Central avenue.

☆ ☆ ☆

The committee had collected about \$1,600 from generous citizens for expenses of the affair. Monies left will be turned over for the next "Welcome Home" party for the local service men not yet honored.

☆ ☆ ☆

Reunions: Cpl. M. C. Taylor greeted by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taylor; Tpr. D. F. Potter reunited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Potter; the whole Tanaka family from out south were there to meet L/Cpl. H. T. Tanaka; his father, Tommy Tanaka of the 209th came back to the same depot after the First Great War; Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Cathrea of Meadow Lake were here to meet Sgt. Jimmy Cathrea, who was born in Swift Current. He was also reunited with his wife. They were married five weeks before he left. There were other reunions with parents, etc., from other points in the province. Mrs. R. B. Hare met her brother, Tpr. R. L. Johnston of Calgary, who stayed over a couple of days.

**Nominal Roli of the Members  
of the  
8th CANADIAN RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT  
(14th Canadian Hussars)  
who were decorated during World War II**

**Distinguished Service Order**

Lt.-Col.	ALWAY, Bruce Mowbray
Major	PORTEOUS, Charles Richard

**Member of The Order of The British Empire**

Capt.	BYTHELL, Donald Cameron
-------	-------------------------

**Military Cross**

Lieut.	LAWRENCE, Albert Benjamin R.
Lieut.	MACKENZIE, Lorne Ainsworth
Lieut.	MCKINNON, John Norman
Lieut.	PATON, Alexander Knox
Lieut.	RIDGEWAY, Colin Stewart

**Distinguished Conduct Medal**

A-22019	L/Sgt.	LEWIS, Arthur Henry
D-81688	Sgt.	TOOTLE, James Gordon
L-13235	Sgt.	TOWNSEND, John Franklin

**Military Medal**

L-53230	Sgt.	BAYNTON, Alfred James
D-81729	Sgt.	DELANEY, Robert J. A.
H-14021	Tpr.	GEORGESON, Clarence H.
B-17107	Sgt.	GOODALL, Raymond Lloyd
L-53546	Sgt.	HARBOR, Frank
L-54941	Sgt.	HESSDORFOR, Leo John
L-53284	Cpl.	MCGILLION, Barney Joseph
B-36528	Sgt.	MACE, Leonard Arthur
B-37817	Sgt.	MERCEY, Adrian
D-81404	L/Cpl.	PATERSON, Jack Frew
A-86860	Sgt.	STALKER, Bruce McKay

**British Empire Medal**

L-53590	Sgt.	BARKER, Robert Victor
---------	------	-----------------------

## Mentioned in Despatches

	Lt.-Col.	ALWAY, Bruce Mowbray
	Lieut.	ANDERSON, Edwin Walter
	Lieut.	BILLINGSLEY, James Ernest
L-104110	Tpr.	BISHOP, Wallace Robert
D-76730	Sgt.	COXHEAD, Francis James
D-81729	Sgt.	DELANEY, Robert J. A.
D-81021	SSM (WOII)	GALLEY, Robert Charles
	Major	GENTLES, Robert Henry D.
	Lieut.	GOOD, Gordon Edward
H-19719	Sgt.	GREEN, George Edward
	Major	GREEN, Robert Frederick
L-53255	Tpr.	HANNA, Thomas Gerald
L-53617	Sgt.	KENNAUGH, Alfred Stanley
	Lieut.	LOWE, Edward Cecil Hammond
M-12103	SQMS	MASTERS, Martin James
M-11410	Sgt.	MIKULOSİK, Thomas
M-10610	Cpl.	SAMUEL, Thomas E.
D-81023	SSM (WOII)	SCHULTZ, John
B-67472	SSM (WOII)	SMITH, Charles Leslie
L-53592	Sgt.	SMITH, Gordon Harry
B-36731	Sgt.	STONE, George
M-103802	L/Cpl.	TANGEN, Bjarne
D-81800	Sgt.	VINCENT, Leonard Charles

## Bronze Cross (Dutch)

M-103802	L/Cpl.	TANGEN, Bjarne
----------	--------	----------------

## Bronze Lion (Dutch)

M-45128	Lieut. Tpr.	CHADWICK, Leonard James SCHMITZ, Grant
---------	----------------	---

## Croix de Guerre avec étoile de vermeil (French)

Major	BULT-FRANCIS, Dennis S. F.
-------	----------------------------

## Croix de Guerre avec étoile de bronze (French)

A-87107	Sgt.	LEISHMAN, Gordon McGregor
---------	------	---------------------------

## Chevalier of The Order of Leopold II with Palm and Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm (Belgian)

Lieut.	LLOYD-CRAIG, Peter
--------	--------------------

## Chevalier of The Order of The Crown with Palm & Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm (Belgian)

Major	GENTLES, Robert Henry Dick
-------	----------------------------

## Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm (Belgian)

D-81800	SSM (WOII)	VINCENT, Leonard Charles
---------	------------	--------------------------

## Bronze Star Medal (USA)

B-67030	Sgt.	WRIGHTMAN, Earl Wilfred
---------	------	-------------------------

**IN MEMORIAM**

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders field the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

JOHN McCRAE

1915

**Nominal Roll of those Members  
of the  
8th CANADIAN RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT  
(14th Canadian Hussars)  
who gave their lives for their King and Country  
during World War II**

ANDERSON, Edwin W.	COOPER, Peter N.
ANDERSON, Ritchie	COUGHLIN, James T.
ANTON, Lee	COWAN, John T.
ASHDOWN, Henry	CRUDDAS, James R.
BACKUS, Joseph	CUSHING, Clifford J.
BALLACHEY, Alec A.	DAVIES, Leonard G.
BARKER, John H.	DEFONTAINE, Vern G.
BAXTER, Henry G.	DESJARDINS, Marcel E.
BELL, Frank H. C.	DOBSON, William A.
BLACKMON, Orville K. A.	DOOL, Wilfred S.
BLACKMORE, Leslie N.	DUBE, Lorenzo J.
BOOTHROYD, Edward F. H.	DUCKETT, Leslie A.
BOYD, Andrew P.	DUPEL, Eddie
BROWN, Ross M.	DURDLE, Glenn D.
BURRISON, Reginald M.	EGAN, Frank H.
BUSHENSKY, Albert A.	ELRICK, Keith
CALDWELL, Alexander W.	ENGLAND, Ernest J.
CAMPBELL, John J.	ERDMAN, Lloyd G.
CARNOCHAN, Arthur E.	EWERT, Henry
CEDERLUND, Hans W.	FORBES, John H. E.
CHARBONNEAU, Lawrence A.	FORTIER, Emile C.
CHEESEMAN, Howard L.	GALBRAITH, William D.
CLARK, Neil N.	GIBSON, Robert E.
CLEMENT, John H.	HAWES, Nelson S.
CLOUTIER, Henri M.	HUNT, Calvin R.
COLL, Edward J.	ISLIEFSON, Barney A.

JONES, Everett R. O.  
 JONES, John M.  
 JOHNSON, Russell J.  
 KAUGHMAN, Robert K.  
 KAY, Frederick G.  
 KEDDY, David S.  
 KVAMME, Clarence J.  
 LAWRYSYN, William  
 LEBLANC, Jean D. J.  
 LEE, Aisel A.  
 LILGE, Elmer A.  
 LLOYD, Charles H. O.  
 LOCKHART, Robert J.  
 LONG, Orville A.  
 LOWE, Edward C. H.  
 MACE, Leonard A. (MM)  
 MacKENZIE, William L.  
 MacLAREN, William  
 MacLEAN, Archibald L.  
 MARSH, Gordon G.  
 MARSH, Oliver L.  
 MATHISON, Roy C.  
 MASTEL, Frank R.  
 McDONALD, Stafford A.  
 McKENZIE, George A.  
 McWILLIAMS, Ray E.  
 MORRISON, Allan D.  
 MURPHY, Emmett T.  
 O'DONNELL, Francis T.  
 OWCHAR, Russell  
 PAULSON, Frederick B.  
 PIGEAU, Edward J.  
 PLATT, George  
 REAY, William M.

REID, Daniel T.  
 REXFORD, Douglas M.  
 RIPLEY, Herbert E.  
 ROBINSON, Wesley C.  
 ROCHON, Roger A.  
 SAUNDERS, Howard L.  
 SAWERS, Arthur T.  
 SCHJEFTE, Oscar  
 SCOTT, Donald J.  
 SCOTT, Ronald A.  
 SHEPHERD, Arthur A.  
 SILVIUS, Kay K.  
 SIMPKINS, Edward W.  
 SITTER, Clemence J.  
 SMITH, Donald A.  
 SOLNIK, Paul  
 STARFIELD, Karl G.  
 STEPHENS, Charles H.  
 STEVENS, David D.  
 STEWART, Charters W.  
 STRANK, George  
 STURROCK, William M.  
 SUTHERLAND, Alexander D.  
 SWEET, Raymond A.  
 TAYLOR, Harold B.  
 TOWNSEND, John F. (DCM)  
 VALLINT, John  
 WINSLOW, Frederick P. T.  
 WIUM, Gunnar  
 WOOD, Harold E.  
 WRIGHT, David M.  
 ZAHARIK, Jacob  
 ZYBALA, Joseph

*MAY THEY REST IN PEACE*





## The Regimental March

### BONNIE DUNDEE

To the Lords of Convention 'twas Claverhouse spoke,  
"Ere the King's crown go down there are heads to be broke,  
Then each Cavalier who loves honor and me,  
Let him follow the bonnets o' Bonnie Dundee."

#### Chorus

Come fill up my cup, come fill up my can,  
Come saddle my horses, and call out my men,  
Unhook the west port and let us go free,  
For it's up wi' the bonnets o' Bonnie Dundee.  
Dundee he is mounted, he rides up the street,  
The bells they ring backward, the drums they are beat,  
But the Provost (douce man) said "Just e'en let it be,  
For the town is well rid o' that de'il o' Dundee."

#### THE BUGLE AND TRUMPET CALLS

J. 108

*Bugle*

*Trumpet*



**The Various Designations of the Units of The  
14th CANADIAN HUSSARS  
Reserve Force**

27th Light Horse  
1st Apr 10

14th Canadian Light Horse  
15th Mar 20

14th Canadian Hussars  
1st Aug 40

8th (Reserve) Reconnaissance Battalion  
(14th Canadian Hussars)  
1st April 41

8th (Reserve) Reconnaissance Regiment  
(14th Canadian Hussars)  
19th June 47

14th Canadian Hussars  
(8th Armoured Car Regiment)  
4th Feb 49

14th Canadian Hussars  
(8th Armoured Regiment)  
30th Jul 54

14th Canadian Hussars  
19th May 58

## **14th Canadian Hussars**

### **The Battle Honours Approved for Emblazonment**

#### **WORLD WAR I**

Ypres, 1915-1917

Festubert, 1915

Arras, 1917-1918

Hill 70

Amiens

Pursuit to Mons

#### **WORLD WAR II**

Caen

Falaise

The Seine, 1944

Antwerp - Turnhout Canal

The Scheldt

South Beveland

Twente Canal

Groningen

Oldenburg

North-West Europe, 1944-1945

#### **THE HONORARY COLONELS**

Brig. Gen. G. S. Tuxford      1931-1939

Col. W. Van Allen              1947-1958

Col. J. P. Whyte                1960-

#### **THE ALLIED REGIMENTS**

United Kingdom      —    14/20th Kings Hussars

New Zealand          —    Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles

**A Short History**  
**of the**  
**14th CANADIAN HUSSARS**  
Capt. J. B. Campbell, CD

"The organization of two squadrons of cavalry with headquarters at Maple Creek and Swift Current, respectively, to form the nucleus of a new regiment to be designated "27th Light Horse" is authorized."

G.O. No. 38 d. 1 Apr 10

The above order activated the Regiment. Subsequent orders added a third squadron at Moose Jaw, and a fourth at Shaunavon.

Though an official order is needed to create a regiment, that of itself is not enough. It is even more necessary that a nucleus of trained soldiers be available to activate that order. Fortunately, the 27th Light Horse had this nucleus in an independent squadron of Mounted Rifles which had been organized at Moose Jaw in 1906 and its officers became the officers of the new regiment when recruiting started in 1910. Lt. Col. (later Brig. Gen.) G. S. Tuxford, CB, CMG, DSO and bar, ED, led the Regiment to its first camp at Sewell in 1910. A highlight of that camp, and of all camps until 1914, was the band of the 27th, a 30-piece military brass band organized by Lt. Col. Tuxford under the baton of Sgt. G. B. McLellan of Moose Jaw. In 1931, Brig. Gen. Tuxford was appointed the Honorary-Colonel of the Regiment—a fitting climax to his long career with the Regiment.

From 1910 to 1914, the historical records show an increasing interest in the 27th Light Horse by residents throughout Southwestern Saskatchewan. Lt. Col. Tuxford reported for the 1914 camp at Sewell as follows:

July 2 1914: "The Regiment had 30 men and 34 horses overstrength (28 officers, 312 ORs and 320 horses). Again I temporarily commanded the 7th Cavalry Brigade, and led 6,300 officers and ORs in the inspection before Col. Steele, DOC, MD10"

Later in the year (23 Aug 14) Lt. Col. Tuxford reported again:

"The troop train from the west carrying volunteers from "A" and "B" Squadrons pulled into Moose Jaw, picked up the quota from "C" Squadron and amidst a scene of unparalleled excitement departed for Valcartier Camp"

Lt. Col. Tuxford modestly neglected to mention that he led the volunteers to Valcartier.

Checking the attestation role of the "Overseas Active Service Contingent", 186 officers and ORs enlisted from the 320 members of the Regiment after Canada entered World War I. The first name on the attestation roll is that of Sgt. (later Major) J. H. Sills of Swift Current.

In 1915 Lt. Col. W. O. Smyth, VD, was appointed C.O., as Lt. Col. Tuxford was in France. Recruitment and training are recorded from 1915 through 1918, though Col. Smyth led a Battalion overseas in 1916.

A reorganization was authorized by G.O. 26, d/1 May 20, with Lt. Col. W. M. Yates as C.O. of the 14th Canadian Light Horse. Lt. Col. G. L. Greenley, MC, succeeded Col. Yates in 1925, and commanded until 1930 when Lt. Col. W. Van Allen, VD, assumed command. In 1935 Lt. Col. Hopkins, DFC, was appointed C.O., and commanded until the outbreak of World War II.

From 1919 through 1939 the Regiment played many roles. As a military unit, it held weekly training sessions and attended summer camps. Trail rides were organized for all ranks to train personnel in cavalry tactics, to care for and train horses, to become used to movement across unfamiliar territory, and to coalesce the individuals who comprised the Regiment into a fighting unit. The Regiment filled a social function also. Each year a Regimental Dinner and Ball was held at one of the Squadron H.Q. Often this function was held in conjunction with a local event; sometimes it was a light horse show, on occasions an agricultural or a horticultural fair, or a service club activity. Regimental H.Q. moved throughout the training area depending on the location of the home of the C.O., thus Swift Current, Maple Creek, Shaunavon or Climax were the home of H.Q. Squadron on occasions.

Shortly after World War I, the Regiment was allotted two armories. The Maple Creek Armory was designed to accommodate a squadron, while that at Climax was built to provide facilities for a troop. Since then, both have been occupied on many nights and afternoons each year for military training, for social events, and for educational purposes.

There was a short period from late 1939 to early 1941 that the regiment was without leadership as many of the officers and NCOs were on active service. It was not until the G.O. 194/40, d/1 Aug 40, was published, that the Regiment assumed an active training role. The War Diary, d/1 Apr 41, states that, "Lt. P. H. West and Cpl. L. E. Abdelnour arrived in Swift Current to commence organization and training of recruits within the area from the SSR and KRC to the 14 CLH with RIHQ at Swift Current, and "B" and "C" Squadrons at Maple Creek and Shaunavon respectively". Tpr. (later Captain) G. Bannerman was the first recruit, as well as the first from the reorganized Regiment to enlist for active service. By July, 1941, some 180 recruits had been documented and attended camp at Dundurn. The enlistment record from 1941 to 1945 shows that 872 men were documented and given some basic training, of whom over 400 enlisted in one of the arms of the Canadian Forces. Lt. West relinquished command to Major Booker in 1943.

Notwithstanding the limited facilities and equipment available because of the demands of the active forces, considerable basic training was given all recruits. If Bren gun carriers or light armor were not available for driving instruction, then gasmask training, parade square or rifle drill were acceptable substitutes. A notable achievement by Lt. West and Major Booker was the formation of sub-units (troops) in towns and villages throughout the Regimental area. These were established at Climax, Cabri, Herbert, Frontier, Aneroid, Eastend, Tompkins, Abbey, Ponteix and Admiral; interested local citizens supported, commanded and trained these sub-units. Parade nights were social nights also, with the wives and children watching the manoeuvres and the training of the part-time soldiers.

In late 1945, it was reported officially that the 8th Recce Regiment, led by Major Good, would be demobilized at Swift Current. Preparations for the reception were coordinated between city officials, service clubs and the 14th Canadian Hussars. Major Booker met the 8th Recce at Halifax and accompanied it to Swift Current. It was a gala evening with receptions, dinners and dances and particularly with reunions of families separated for five or more years.

Lt. Col. J. D. Burke, MC, ED, succeeded Major Booker in command in 1948. One of his unpleasant tasks was the closing out of several of the troops in small centres throughout the Regimental area. Though this reduced the strength somewhat, the Regiment remained a relatively strong unit as many overseas veterans joined to become civilian soldiers. With Gen. Trudeau (DOC, MD.10), he selected the site and helped design a two-squadron armory for Swift Current, but retired before the building was completed.

The Swift Current armory was available for training during the command of Lt. Col. L. E. McKenzie, CD, who led the Regiment from January, 1954, to November, 1956. It has been a centre for training of the 14th Canadian Hussars, as well as for Army Cadets, for the High School soldier training program, for junior rifle clubs, and for civic purposes. Lt. Col. McKenzie reactivated the band which had been organized by Brig. Tuxford; this fine unit was directed until 1958 by WO2 F. Farey, and since then by WO2 E. Tallman.

Several 2 I/Cs have had to assume acting command on occasion. Lt. Col. Smyth accepted this role when Brig. Tuxford left for France in 1914. Later Lt. Col. Cameron, DSO, VD, and Lt. Col. Corrigan were acting commanders for short periods. More recently Major G. W. White, CD, accepted the responsibilities of leadership on two occasions. The services of these officers are recognized and appreciated.

The 50th Anniversary of the Regiment was celebrated on 1 Apr 60, during the command of Lt. Col. Reardon, CD. Civic and military organizations recognized the event with parades, banquets and dances at all Squadron H.Q.s. Former C.O.s, and Officers and ORs of their commands, returned to help make the event a great success.

The Regiment has maintained contacts with its allied Regiments in Great Britain, the 14th, 20th King's Hussars. In the 1930s, Lt. A. Cooper visited the 14th/20th and presented badges of the Regiment to Lt. Col. A. V. Pope. More recently, Lt. Col. Clifton joined the 14th/20th for a few days when it was on duty in Germany, and H/Capt. Hall, the unit Chaplain, visited in Britain when it was refitting between duty in Germany and Libya. A return visit was made in 1961, when Major James, Adj. 14th/20th, inspected the 14th Canadian Hussars.

Lt. Col. Clifton, CD, succeeded to command on 1 Jan 65 taking over from Lt. Col. Reardon. During their terms of command these officers have encouraged recruitment and training and have contributed leadership to community and Regimental activities.

Fifty-five years ago the 14th Canadian Hussars became a military unit. During this period over 4,000 men have been members of the Regiment. Sometimes they paraded on horses, sometimes on foot, sometimes in armored transport, sometimes in tanks. Many served Canada overseas in World Wars

I and II; many did not return. Notwithstanding the many changes in designation, the lustre of the "Bucking Horse" has brightened as the years passed. Those who wear that badge today, with its FREE and FEARLESS motto, are proud possessors of a tradition of service and integrity.

### COMMANDING OFFICERS

Brig.-Gen. G. S. Tuxford, CB, CMG, DSO, ED.....	1910-1914
Lt.-Col. W. O. Smyth .....	1914-1921
Col. W. M. Yates.....	1921-1924
Major W. H. Corrigan .....	1924-1926
Lt.-Col. G. L. Greenley, MC, VD .....	1926-1930
Lt.-Col. G. L. Cameron, DSO, VD.....	1930-1931
Lt.-Col. W. Van Allen, VD.....	1931-1936
Col. J. R. Hopkins, DFC, ED.....	1934-1940
Capt. P. H. West.....	1941-1943
Major J. R. Booker .....	1943-1948
Lt.-Col. D. J. Burke, MC, ED.....	1948-1953
Lt.-Col. L. E. McKenzie, CD.....	1953-1956
Major G. H. White, CD.....	1956-1957
Lt.-Col. D. J. Burke, MC, ED.....	1957-1960
Lt.-Col. E. H. Reardon, CD.....	1960-1964
Lt.-Col. I. G. Clifton, CD.....	1965-





**Battle Honors  
of the  
14TH/20TH KING'S HUSSARS**

Vimiera	Mons
Douro	Retreat from Mons
Talavera	Marne 1914
Fuentes d'Onor	Aisne 1914
Salamanca	Messines 1914
Vittoria	Ypres 1914-15
Pyrenees	Cambrai 1917-18
Orthes	Somme 1918
Peninsula	Amiens
Chillianwallah	Sambre
Goojerat	Tigris 1916
Punjab	Kut al Amara 1917
Persia	Baghdad
Central India	Mesopotamia 1915-18
Suakin 1885	Persia 1918
Relief of Ladysmith	Bologna
South Africa 1900-02	Medicina
Italy 1945	

## **A Short History of the 14th/20th KING'S HUSSARS**

The 14th/20th King's Hussars was formed as the result of the amalgamation of the 14th and 20th Hussars in 1922. Both regiments were raised in the 18th century, the former in order to resist a Scottish invasion of England in 1715. (The first action fought was at Preston, Lancs.)

Both the 14th and the 20th have distinguished records, particularly so in the war against Napoleon (1793-1815) and during the Spanish Peninsula campaigns, the 14th (then Light Dragoons) won eight Battle Honours.

The 14th played a prominent part in the Indian Wars, and a member of the regiment won the V.C. in the Indian Mutiny.

Another was won in the South African War at the end of the 19th century.

In the Great War (1914-1918) the 14th fought against the Turks in Iraq and Persia and the 20th fought against the Germans in France and Flanders.

In the Second World War (1939-1945) the 14th/20th King's Hussars served in the Middle East and Italy, ending the war with the pursuit of the German Army in Northern Italy.

Since the War the regiment has served in Germany (twice), in England and in Libya.

---

The 14th/20th has the following honours, distinctions and badges:

### **The Prussian Eagle Cap Badge**

This badge was presented to the 14th Light Dragoons by Princess Frederica of Prussia in 1798. It has been our regimental badge ever since.

### **The King's Crest**

Was presented to the 14th by King William IVth in 1832. It consists of the Royal Cypher within the Garter and is now used as a lapel badge.

### **Crossed Kukris Badge**

The Crossed Kukris is the badge of the Corps of Gurkhas. The 14th/20th formed part of The Gurkha Lorried Brigade in the Second World War and a friendship born of mutual esteem developed between the regiments. At the Battle of Medicina in 1945, Gurkhas and tanks of the 14th/20th stormed the strongly held town of Medicina and defeated the German force there. The Gurkhas granted us the honour of wearing their badge on our uniforms and the crossed Kukris became an official part of our uniform in 1950.

## **The Regimental Medal**

The 14th/20th is the only regiment in the British Army which awards a Regimental Medal. It is awarded to those who contribute in some conspicuous manner to the efficiency or military honour of the regiment.

## **"The Emperor"**

Our most valued trophy is "The Emperor" — a silver chamber pot captured from Napoleon's brother (King Joseph) during the Napoleonic War.

## **The Battle of Ramnuggur**

On 22nd November every year the famous charge by the 14th Light Dragoons at Ramnuggur (in India) is celebrated in the regiment. On this day there is a holiday, a ball in the Sergeants Mess and various sporting activities.

## **Service in Persia**

The regiment has the unique distinction of having served on three separate occasions in Persia. The last occasion was in 1941 when the Regiment formed part of a Division which forced the Persian Army to surrender even though it was superior to us in numbers and equipment.

## **The New Guidon**

A new Guidon was presented to the regiment on 10th June 1961 by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, at a ceremonial parade in Germany.

A Guidon is the "Colour" of a Light Cavalry regiment and is swallow tailed in shape. It is a symbol of our loyalty to the Sovereign, to our country and our Regiment. It represents the past deeds, traditions and sacrifices of members of this Regiment.

The Guidon is kept in the Officer's Mess and is used on ceremonial parades.

---

## **Allied Regiments**

Canadian Army: 14th Canadian Hussars

Australian Military Forces: 14th Light Horse Regiment  
8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles

New Zealand Military Forces: Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles

Territorial Army: The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry

**A Short History  
of the  
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMoured CORPS**

## THE ROYAL CANADIAN ARMoured CORPS

(Reprinted with permission)

In Canada, during the frustrating years between the wars, it was Mayor General F. F. Worthington who was the champion of armoured warfare. What Martel and Fuller stood for in Britain, and de Gaulle in France, General Worthington stood for in Canada. It was largely through his efforts that Canada formed an Armoured Corps and he is often affectionately and quite properly referred to as "The Father of the Canadian Armoured Corps."

In 1936 the Militia was reorganized and at that time six Non-Permanent Active Militia Tank Battalions were authorized. In the same year formation of Canada's first tank school was approved, consisting of seven officers and 12 instructors, but possessing no tanks. The instructors were sent to the Royal Canadian Air Force for mechanical training, while two of the officers were despatched to England for training with the Royal Tank Corps. One of these officers was Major Worthington who was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on his return to Canada and appointed Officer Commanding the tank school which was set up in Borden in May of 1938. At the outbreak of hostilities this school was renamed the Canadian Armoured Fighting Vehicles Training Centre and immediately mobilized for war.

With the declaration of war, two divisional Cavalry regiments were mobilized, and during the winter of 1939-40 several other armoured units were also activated. Consequently on August 13th, 1940, when the Canadian Armoured Corps was officially formed, it consisted of one Armoured Brigade. With this formation the Corps faced an enormous task. Tanks, recovery vehicles, transporters, tractors, trucks, ambulances, trailers, armoured cars, carriers, command vehicles, mobile workshops, wireless sets, all had to be gathered together; gunners, drivers, wireless operators, welders, fitters, machinists, storemen, engineers and carpenters had to be trained, all in the matter of a year or so.

The Corps expanded rapidly, until by February, 1941 it consisted of one Armoured Division, one Army Tank Brigade and three Divisional Reconnaissance Regiments. The School at Camp Borden had also expanded into a large and well-equipped training centre.

By June, 1941, the 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade was sent overseas and shortly afterwards this Brigade became the first formation to be fully equipped with Churchill tanks. In the same year it moved to the south of England to take part in the defence of Britain.

In October and November, 1941, the 5th Canadian Armoured Division moved overseas and was assembled in and around the garrison town of Aldershot, and although equipment was short, training continued on an around-the-clock basis.

Meanwhile, back in Canada the development of the Corps continued. Early in 1942, the 4th Canadian Infantry Division was converted to armour and designated the 4th Canadian Armoured Division. It was stationed in the Debert, Nova Scotia, area and began training on the Canadian designed and produced Ram tank.

Here again it was Major General Worthington who was the prime mover in having this tank designed and finally produced by the Montreal Locomotive Works Ltd. The tank incorporated many revolutionary features such as the upper hull being constructed from a single steel casting. Britain and the United States both copied this feature in their later models. It is also interesting to note that this Canadian Tank Arsenal was the largest of its kind in the British Commonwealth and, of all the Allied War plants, only the Willow Run and Detroit tank factories of the United States were larger.

In England, the 14th Army Tank Battalion (The Calgary Regiment) was undergoing intensive combined operations training and on 19th August 1942 landed on the beaches of Dieppe with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. This was the first action of a unit of the Canadian Armoured Corps.

By the summer of 1942 the 4th Canadian Armoured Division had made good progress in their training and were eagerly awaiting despatch overseas. This was accomplished by the fall of 1942, along with units of the 2nd Canadian Army Tank Brigade. This brought the total of armoured units in Britain at the end of 1942 to two Armoured Divisions and two Independent Armoured Brigades.

Early in 1943 the Armoured Divisions were reorganized on a one Armoured Brigade basis, and it was decided at this time to renumber all the Brigades, including the Army Tank Brigades, in numerical order. The 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade remained unchanged, but the 4th and 5th Canadian Armoured Divisions and 2nd Canadian Army Tank Brigade were reorganized so that there finally developed an armoured force which consisted of three Army Tank Brigades and two Armoured Divisions in the United Kingdom. At this time the Armoured Car Regiments were withdrawn from the Armoured Divisions and became Corps troops. In addition, an Armoured Delivery Regiment was also organized. Shortly afterwards it was decided that the need for three Army Tank Brigades was not considered necessary; therefore one was disbanded and the personnel therein earmarked for reinforcements. Thus the two Army Tank Brigades (subsequently redesignated as Armoured Brigades) and two Armoured Divisions were finally constituted and this grouping and designation, listed below, remained until the end of the war.

#### *First Canadian Army*

25th Armoured Delivery Regiment (The Elgin Regiment)

#### *1st Canadian Corps*

1st Armoured Car Regiment (The Royal Canadian Dragoons)

#### *1st Canadian Armoured Brigade*

11th Armoured Regiment (The Ontario Regiment)

12th Armoured Regiment (Three Rivers Regiment)

14th Armoured Regiment (The Calgary Regiment)

#### *2nd Canadian Corps*

18th Armoured Car Regiment (12th Manitoba Dragoons)

*2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade*

- 6th Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars)
- 10th Armoured Regiment (The Fort Garry Horse)
- 27th Armoured Regiment (The Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment)

*1st Canadian Infantry Division*

- 4th Reconnaissance Regiment (4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards)

*2nd Canadian Infantry Division*

- 8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars)

*3rd Canadian Infantry Division*

- 7th Reconnaissance Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars)

*4th Canadian Armoured Division*

- 29th Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (The South Alberta Regiment)

*4th Canadian Armoured Brigade*

- 21st Armoured Regiment (The Governor General's Foot Guards)
- 22nd Armoured Regiment (The Canadian Grenadier Guards)
- 28th Armoured Regiment (The British Columbia Regiment)

*5th Canadian Armoured Division*

- 3rd Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (The Governor General's Horse Guards)

*5th Canadian Armoured Brigade*

- 2nd Armoured Regiment (Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians))
- 5th Armoured Regiment (8th Princess Louise's (New Brunswick) Hussars)
- 9th Armoured Regiment (The British Columbia Dragoons)

*79th British Armoured Division*

- 1st Canadian Armoured Personnel Carrier Regiment.

In June, 1943, the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade was despatched as an independent force to the Mediterranean theatre of operations, where it took part in the invasion of Sicily and eventually in the operations on the mainland of Italy. In October of the same year the 5th Canadian Armoured Division joined the 1st Brigade in the bloody fighting over the tortuous and mountainous terrain of Italy, until they were both withdrawn in the Spring of 1945 and sent to North-West Europe to join up with the First Canadian Army on the final push through Holland and Germany.



After many months of training in the United Kingdom, the remainder of the Canadian Armoured Corps prepared for the invasion of Normandy. The 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade equipped with "DD" tanks, landed in the initial assault in support of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. Shortly after the fall of Caen in July, the 4th Canadian Armoured Division landed and both these formations took leading roles in the Normandy breakout and pursuit across the Seine in Belgium and Holland. It was during these operations that it became apparent a requirement existed for a fully-tracked armoured infantry carrier. This resulted in the formation in November, 1944 of the 1st Canadian Armoured Personnel Carrier Regiment.

Early in 1945 when the troops from Italy had joined their comrades in the First Canadian Army, there were over 17,000 in all ranks of the Canadian Armoured Corps in Europe, contained in more than twenty armoured units. This was the situation when hostilities ceased.

In August, 1945, His Majesty The King, in recognition of gallantry in action and devotion to duty of the officers and men of the Corps, approved the prefix "Royal" and on 2nd August 1945 the Canadian Armoured Corps became the "Royal Canadian Armoured Corps".

Thus in less than 10 years, the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps developed from a tank school of 19 all ranks to a wartime strength of more than 20,000. The localities of the main engagements include such names as Dieppe, Sicily, Campo Basso, Moro River, Ortona, Melfa River, Hitler Line, Gothic Line, Normandy landing, Caen, Falaise, Leopold Canal, Hochwald Forest and the Rhine Crossing. Indeed, it is an enviable record.

The unfortunate fate which beset the Armoured Corps at the conclusion of the First World War was not to be repeated at the cessation of hostilities this time. When Canada's plans for a peace-time Army were formulated, the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps was represented with two Regiments and a Corps training centre in the Active Force and twenty-three Regiments in the Reserve Force.

To ensure our security against any aggressor, the knowledge and skill built up during the Second World War is being perpetuated at home and abroad by members of both the Active and Reserve Forces. While part of the Armoured Corps is actively maintaining the peace in Cyprus and Palestine, the remainder in Canada and Europe is preparing for any eventuality. Thus the tradition of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps is being carried on in a manner befitting the high standard achieved by the Corps.



THE RT. HON. SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Camera West, London

**Excerpts from the Historic Speeches**  
**of**  
**SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL**

I would say to the House, as I said to those who have joined this Government. 'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.'

13 May 1940

Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.

13 May 1940

We shall not flag or fail. We shall fight in France. We shall fight on the seas and oceans. We shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.

4 June 1940

Let us brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say: "This was their finest hour'."

18 June 1940

Do not let us speak of darker days; let us rather speak of sterner days. These are not dark days: these are great days—the greatest days our country has ever lived; and we must all thank God that we have been allowed each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race.

29 October 1941

## P.O.L. AND SPARE PARTS

### ONLY A VOLUNTEER

Why didn't I wait to be drafted,  
And march to the train with a band;  
Why didn't I wait to be drafted,  
Why did I hold up my hand?

For nobody gave me a banquet,  
And nobody spoke a kind word;  
Just the noise from the wheels and the engine  
Were the only sounds that I heard.

Then off to a camp I was hustled,  
And trained there for more than a year;  
But then in the shuffle forgotten,  
I was only a Volunteer.

I waded in mud at the Sangro,  
And froze in Beveland's cold;  
While marching long miles in the moonlight,  
For they needed me — so I was told.

To work while he guarded the home front,  
All of which made it so clear;  
Why the glory all goes to the draftee,  
And the work to the Volunteer.

One night I was dreaming of battle,  
As I slept on the floor of my tent;  
While the fellow back home there was smiling,  
Because I'd not wait to be sent;

Then amid all the danger and clatter,  
With all the horror and hate;  
I picked up an on-coming bullet;  
And arrived at the Pearly Gate.

Said St. Peter from inside, "I'm sorry,  
Afraid we can't take you in here,  
What's left is reserved for the draftees,  
To Hell with the Volunteer."

Then again as I look to the future,  
When my laddie sits down on my knee;  
He'll ask what I did in the conflict,  
While his eyes look up proudly at me.

I'll try to avoid that sad story,  
Though that will not help me for long;  
For the more I put off the telling,  
The more he'll be sure something's wrong.

Then I'll turn away fast from him blushing,  
From an eye that will gather a tear;  
And admit that I never was drafted,  
I was only a Volunteer.

## AN ODE TO A CANADIAN

He'll ruin your life and run off with your wife,  
And think he is doing no wrong,  
He'll take you around if you hand him a £  
And take all you've got for a song.

He has a thousand mile ranch that was left him by chance,  
At the death of his Old Uncle Joss,  
He's a marvellous shot and believe it or not,  
He's a wonder at breaking a hoss.

He's forgotten his wife, he'll be single for life,  
With the boys he's a regular guy,  
And he's got a life story that's covered in glory,  
But he's much too wicked to die.

He'll gaze with a frown on old London Town,  
Saying "Gee, what a hell of a dump,  
Why, back on my farm, it would go in the barn."  
And your ego goes down with a bump.

He has a personal charm that is meant to disarm  
The unwary that come in his way,  
But don't listen to him, for it's only his whim,  
And he'll surely lead you astray.

Though you know he's a liar, your blood is on fire,  
As he whispers, "I love you so much,"  
You go weak at the knees as he whispers "Oh Please,"  
And you feel his experienced touch.

Tho' you may regret it, you will never forget it,  
Although it is breaking your heart,  
To think of the kisses that other young Misses,  
May give him while you are apart.

Though he makes you so mad and often quite sad,  
Still you cannot send him away,  
He's a real bad guy and a regular cad  
So why do you whisper "Please Stay".

He'll wed you of course, when he gets his divorce,  
But while waiting "Oh Honey why not",  
So just think of this when he begs for a kiss,  
That a pram costs a hell of a lot!

## **DRIVER TRAINING**

During an early exercise the Colonel (Lieut. Col. Mann) commanded one of the newly arrived officers to take him on the pillion of his motorcycle down a steep and winding hill to Divisional Headquarters.

Perched as he was on a great coat and steel helmet the Commanding Officer had a hair raising ride to say the least. On arriving at his destination he thanked the officer and stated this was his first ride on the pillion of a motorcycle. "You're quite welcome, sir," was the reply, "this is the first time I've ridden one myself."

C. C. M.

## **DIVINE INSPIRATION**

In the early days of the VIIIth RECCE, before the Unit had a Padre, Col. Mann called a church parade in a cold temporary gymnasium. It was a dispiriting affair — no piano, no prayer books, no enthusiasm and no Padre. Nothing daunted the Colonel. He made a snap decision to take the service himself and opened with the stirring words of "Onward Christian Soldiers". As the first sour note came from his mouth the Colonel found to his horror that he was the only one singing. He finished the first verse, stopped and looked at the expressionless face of his Unit there assembled and cried out. "God Damn It! We will start again and we will keep starting and keep singing until every last one of you bastards joins in and finishes the hymn." He meant it and the singing became loud and enthusiastic if not melodious or heartfelt.

Anon

## **JUSTICE**

The scales of Justice are finely balanced — just how finely is well illustrated by this tale of Pat Patterson's.

While stationed near the south coast of England, Pat was approached by the local Church of England pastor, a fine old gentleman who was enquiring as to the moral character of a certain trooper "X", who was about to marry one of his parishioners.

Pat, never one to let a friend down, extolled in glowing terms the virtues of one of the most disreputable and amoral characters ever to disgrace the regiment. As he waxed more eloquent the parson's face became clouded and his manner more troubled, until Pat finally stopped long enough to ask the reason why.

"Well," said the parson, "this woman is a slovenly creature of loose and immoral habits who would be quite unsuited to your trooper "X". I had hoped for her father's sake they might be compatible and a reasonable marriage result. Under the circumstances I cannot perform the office."

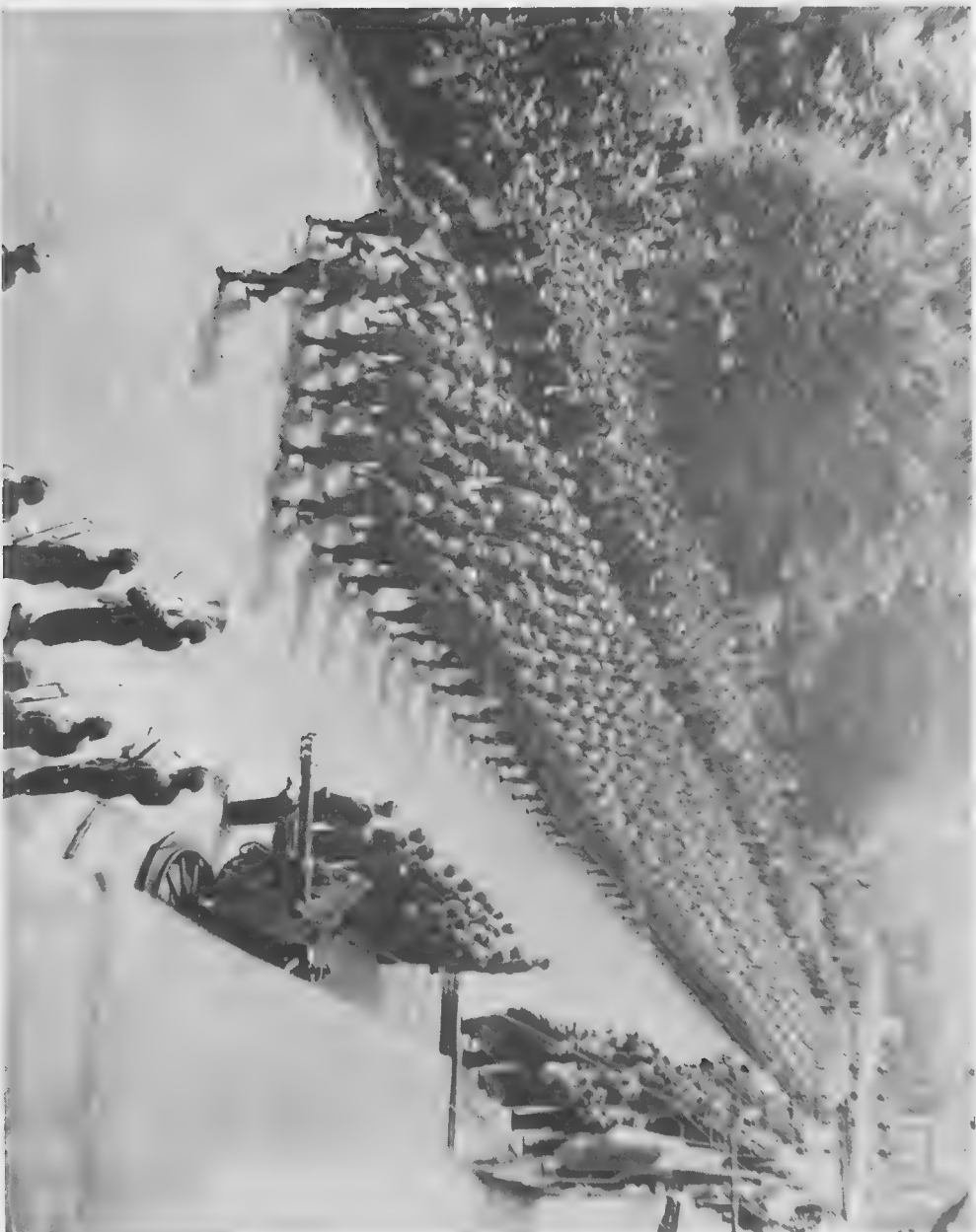
Then followed Pat's confession.

"Well young man, I believe you this time and I will perform the marriage, not because I approve, but it may save two decent people who might otherwise become involved with your trooper and my parishioner."

2nd Canadian  
Division  
Victory  
Parade

Dieppe  
Sep 1944

8th Recce  
in the  
lead



11 Troop "ARC" Section - Germany, 1945  
All dressed up and nowhere to go - Berlin Victory Parade called off



One of the "Sixties" drawing rations



Anti-Tank Gun Crew, Germany



Carrier in Germany





"Liberation" - Dieppe, 1944



Germany, 1945  
No fraternization



"Toffs"



K.P. in Holland, 1944



"The Pause That Refreshes"  
Hochwald Forest,  
Germany, 1945



As Tough As They Come



**All Over**  
VE Day, Germany, 1945



**The Last Hurrah!**

Major Gordon Good's  
Farewell Address at  
Swift Current, Sask.  
December, 1945

## THE REGIMENTAL POOCHES

Owner's Name	Pooches' Name
Lt. Col. F. C. Vokes	Anna
	Hopkins
	Guns
Maj. B. M. Alway	Black Magic
Maj. C. R. Porteous	Simon
Maj. J. F. Merner	Gregor III
Lt. J. Spencer	Recce
All the rest of us	Balls of Battle

## HOT DAMM

The winter of 1941 in England was as cold as the Saskatchewan prairie at 40 below and felt worse. It wasn't too bad for the troops who occupied well heated weathertight Nissen huts. But the officers! In the fashion of the British Army they were billeted one or two to a room each as big as a barn so that they could quietly and with dignity freeze to death for the glory of the Empire.

Canadians however don't submit quite so easily in matters of this kind as do their British counterparts and in each officer's baggage was an electric heater drawing on the average some 11-1200 watts. The electric bills were enough to alarm even the Canadian army so Sergeant "Y" was called upon. Nothing to it. He'd been a crook in civvy street. He simply reversed the meter and when Spring came the British Government owed the Unit £110 0s. 0d. for electric service overcharge.

PAT

This choice collection of NUTS & BOLTS was culled from the 2nd(?) edition of the "CARRIER", a journal of the VIIIth Recce Regt. published 25 July 42.

Dear Editor;

The Sgt's of the R.C.A.F. wish to thank the personnel of the VIII Recce for the good time they have spent with them. It's too bad there were no schemes in progress during our stay here but the route march took the kinks out of our legs anyway. We wish the Recce lots of luck in the Div. sports coming soon. If copies of the next issue of the "Carrier" could be sent to us it would be very much appreciated.

Yours,

Sgt's. Anglin, Blue, Fairley, Kissick, Rea and Rosinet.

Ans: Okay, Bluebirds, you'll get it.

## SWAP COLUMN

Brand new Scout car to swap for a ticket F.O.B. Canada. The car can be seen in my back yard under the right hand side oak tree.  
Address: Messrs. Fedup & Whacky, 2 Year Street, England.

## TRACK AND FIELD

On July 16th the unit took part in a Div. Tps. Track and Field Meet at Horsham. Although it fell a few points short of winning 1st or 2nd place at the meet our track team was in there all the way in every event and made the other fellows step right out.

Following is a list of our men who placed in the events:

Tpr. D. Repentigny H. (A Sqn.) 3rd in the 440. Time: 56 I/IC sec.

Tpr. Lutz and Cpl. Delaney both of A Sqn. ran 2nd and 3rd respectively in the mile run. Time: 4:54.

Sgt. Bricker (RCOC Fitter) placed 3rd in the 3 mile race. Time: 18.4.

In the field events Tpr. Richardson of HG Sqn. placed 2nd in the running broad being one inch behind the winner who jumped 19 feet.

Lieut. Wood of A sqn. heaved the 16 pound shot 33 feet eight inches to place 2nd in that event.

Our relay teams both placed 3rd and were as follows:

440 relay — Cpl. Pettigrew, Donison, Sgt. Sutherland, Williams.

1 mile relay — DeRepentigny, Sgt. Martin, Ballard, Sgt. McIlwain.

The burly fellows of Sgt. Waltho's placed 2nd in the Tug of War.

The team standing in the meet, which did not include the relay teams or tug of war were as follows:

Signals 31, RCASC 29, Tor Scots 13, VIII Recce 12, Provost 8.

## So Help Me It's True

The whole of the extracts below are from genuine letters sent to the pensions office. All written in good faith by the authors.

1. I cannot get sick pay; I have six children; can you tell me why this is?

2. This is my eighth child — what are you doing about it?

3. Mrs. R. has no clothes — has not had any for a year. The clergy have been visiting her.

4. In reply to your letter. I have already co-habited with your officers so far without results.

5. I am glad to report that my husband who was reported missing is now dead.

6. Sir, I am forwarding my Marriage Certificate and two children, one of which is a mistake as you will see.

## "SHOT"

One morning shortly after the Orderly Room Parade, a civilian visitor was ushered into the training office where I was warming the seat of my pants by the fire. As he had the manner of speech and wore the ghastly clothes that distinguish both the English country gentleman and the bum, I reserved judgement temporarily and made him welcome.

As it turned out he was the commander of the local Home Guard unit seeking some .303 ball for a rifle shoot. Being somewhat short ourselves (remember those days) I warned him that we could be of little help, but how much did he need? "Eighteen rounds." Well even the poverty stricken Canadians could rustle up that much or could steal it so I gave him a case of 1,148 and made a friend.

The result of my generosity with the army's property was that I was invited to visit his home to arrange a match between his team and ours. It was a delightful place and I was made most welcome by his sister who explained that her brother had been detained in London but would be home shortly. When he arrived some 30 minutes later he apologized for his delay, explaining that he had been unable to escape from Buckingham Palace where he had just been knighted and created a judge of the High Court—Sir Henry Barnard.

With this apology he tendered me a large glass of Red Hackle and an invitation to lunch with him at Grey's Inn, all of which I accepted with pleasure and a humble and forgiving spirit.

C. D. W.

## HISTORY CORRECTED

There are a number of conflicting reports on the capture of Dieppe, each of which contains an element of truth, but in one vital detail all are incorrect. None of the units and none of the persons referred to did what they say they did—capture the town. The truth is that Dieppe was captured by Tpr. Ralph Biggar of the VIII Recce. It happened like this:

The author at this time, as punishment for his manifold sins, was posted as L.O. to 2 Div Headquarters. To soften this dreadful blow, Biggar and his jeep were also posted.

Shortly thereafter the two of us found ourselves motoring merrily down the Division axis well in advance of HO. It was a glorious day, warm and sunny—a day indeed of wine and roses—in fact the jeep was full of them and so were we. But why worry? Our task was simple, our orders clear; and the whole of "F" echelon guarded our front. All we had to do was find a suitable spot to set up the large plaster model of Dieppe (left over from the raid) where the brass could brief the assaulting troops. Nothing to it!

Now a Division Headquarters is a rather ponderous beast. It moves with about the same speed and purpose as a tortoise which to two old recce hands like us was intolerable. When we had opened up a lead of about 20 miles we found the ideal spot—a pool hall with bar attached and while I haggled with the local authorities, Biggar sashayed down the road a piece humming—somewhat off key, "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" . . . to see what he could see.

Two hours later he returned to face the music and an irate Captain who had long since outworn his welcome. In his rather curious report he intimated between hiccups that by diligence, initiative and personal courage he had found a much better place in a big seaside village down the way called Dieppe. The inhabitants he added, were friendly and the enemy departed. As proof of this, and as a peace offering, he tendered me the commemorative bottle he'd been given.

During the next hour while we waited for 2 Div. Headquarters to come up to plan and prepare the assault on Dieppe, Biggar and I toasted his conquest in Pernod, but when Div. arrived with the usual war correspondents in train, we were in no shape to report, boast or confess of Biggar's conquest. Besides, it would have spoiled the fun for the AQ staff who love to plan such things as victory parades from the comfort and safety of main headquarters.

Except for the name of the song Biggar was singing, the foregoing is true in substance and fact . . . so help me.

C. D. W.

### **A GERMAN PRISONER**

The place, Louvigny Woods. The time, early one foggy morning July 1944.

From my slit trench I hear someone approaching. Just as I am about to challenge in the direction of the noise, I can make out two figures coming through the mist.

One was, then S.S.M. Wolf Smith, later R.S.M. "Wolf" Smith. His rifle was levelled at a wee begotten little German soldier with hands held high above his head. He was wearing the inevitable field-grey greatcoat almost trailing the ground. His face, with a pair of very frightened eyes, protruded from a collar as large as a horse collar. I called out, "What have you there Smitty?" Without a moment's hesitation came the reply, "Oh, just one of Der Fuehrer's supermen."

E. Wrightman

### **ACHTUNG!**

The VIIIth Recce were to race out in the direction of the enemy at night in one long column. The Regiment's armoured cars were to lead en masse and the carriers bring up the rear.

It was a cold night and we in the armoured cars were shivering when the word came over the "blower" to halt.

Sgt. "Turkey" Vincent rode up on his trusty Norton and chatted for a few minutes and we got in the back of a couple of a carrier for a bit. What with the heat from the motor and general proclivity I fell off to sleep (charges still pending).

A tug on my shoulder wakened me. I looked up to see who it was. It turned out to be two soldiers of the master race. They both raised their arms and kept repeating "Kamerad". After a large gulp and rub of eyes I loaded them into an armoured car and took them to "C" Squadron headquarters to Capt. Gentles for interrogation. An interested bystander asked if they were very tough to capture.

My reply is a very non-committal "not very".

E. Wrightman

## THE DIVINE RIGHT

Combined operations, conquest and civil government aren't so difficult. In fact, there's nothing to it. In the space of six hours, A Squadron, VIIIth Recce planned, equipped and executed a seaborne assault across two miles of water, captured more ground than was captured by all allied forces on "D Day", established sound local government under an hereditary King and Prime Minister and turned over the whole to the Civil authorities.

What did SHAEF ever do to match that?

It started with a rumour that there were oysters available for the taking on N. Beveland Island if only we could get there — and get the Germans out. To occupy the Island would also serve to seal off the escape routes from Walcheren Island. This, however, was incidental to the main purpose. A Squadron volunteered. Anything was better than the Causeway, and besides Porteous liked oysters.

The first principle in combined operations, of course, is to get command of the sea. This we did in a brilliant naval action reported elsewhere — a noble effort. The second principle is to get the necessary equipment across. Odd as it may seem to some of our drivers who tried to float their armoured vehicles in the various sloughs and canals of Holland AFV's do NOT, repeat DO NOT, float.

Knowing this we commandeered three or four Dutch barges and with the co-operation of their skippers and a British tank regiment which supplied the fuel we got across. It's quite a feat to run a seven-ton armoured car up a 20 per cent grade on a couple of planks supported by oil drums, and a greater feat to unload on the other side in the same manner and in the face of the enemy.

Be that as it may, the task force of barges convoyed by a weasel, made it and the AFVs rolled merrily into the principal village with little or no opposition. But there we ran into one of those hitches which happen so often in war. The enemy wouldn't surrender, and we couldn't make him!

Did that stop our leader? Not a bit. Under a flag of truce Porteous demanded the surrender of the enemy, gave him 30 seconds to comply and threatened to blast him out with typhoons if he didn't.

About 20 minutes had passed in a stalemate when the Tiffy's arrived on their way to God knows where — we had no air strike in support — and the German commander caved. The loot from the prisoners was magnificent — enough for even the Squadron rear echelon.

At a victory feast that evening when we toasted our merchant skippers, and certain of the village notables, the Major and I by virtue of conquest and military might, appointed ourselves the acting hereditary King and Prime Minister respectively of North Beveland Island. The chorus of "jahs" which greeted our announcement — we were the only English speaking persons present — fortified us in our belief that the appointments were most popular — so we confirmed our ranks. We later surrendered all political and administrative powers, but retained our titles which so far as I know have never been revoked.

A correspondent who appeared briefly on the scene, has described this as a "comic opera invasion". My view differs from his. I see a difference between planning and executing an operation of this type and sitting on one's butt making funny remarks, and I see a difference between fighting and writing.

C. D. W.

## BOCHE GUAGE

Prepared by E. Wrightman

	<i>Distance to Enemy</i>	<i>Speed</i>
Populace dancing in streets shaving heads of collaborateurs, etc.	5 miles	25 MPH
Civilians waving from windows	2 miles	15 MPH
Lone civilian in street leading cow	1 mile	10 MPH
Civilians peaking from basement	.5 miles	5 MPH
No civilians nowhere	0	Low gear Reverse imminent

## AN UNKNOWN ALLY

The "moaning Minnies" were falling thick and fast as we of No. 3 section 11 troop "C" Squadron negotiated "Bomb Alley" Les Mesnil. The troops marching single file ahead of us halted. We did likewise and took cover lying on the side of the cobble-stone road. A salvo of bombs straddled our section, all exploding except one that landed directly among us. The voice of Cpl. George Hanson 2i/c of the section called up to me. "Hey!! Earl, I thank the Lord and the foreign workers in Germany for that S.O.B."

E. Wrightman



## SURPRISE

The sun sparkled on the clear waters of the Waal the day that Major Richard Porteous D.S.O. led his gallant troops of "A" Squadron to the conquest of North Beveland Island.

As the Major's charger topped the dike, the spectacle was enhanced by a magnificent hundred foot motor yacht slipping quietly down the river, its colours drooping lazily in the quiet morning air.

"Gunner. Traverse left." Steady! On — 500 — one round Fire! Up 200 — three rounds Fire!

As the shots burst across his bow, the Commander first reversed then stopped engines—a crewman knocked the shackle, the anchor chain slid through the hawse pipe and the beautiful ship swung to the current.

The gallant Major in his weasel led the boarding party that took possession of the ship, its captain, crew and cargo. Victory was complete and a few hours later the vessel was turned over to a crew of Royal Marines.

Sometime later, when the captain and crew were presumably on their way to Canada as POW and the Major and his crew were stuck deep in the mud of Holland (each party would gladly have changed places with the other), we got to speculating as to why we could not have kept the yacht for use after the war as an offshore gambling hell or floating bordello, and if we couldn't keep it, why couldn't we sell it?

Obviously that couldn't be as we didn't have it but why couldn't we get the same break as the navy and get prize money. The thing must be worth a quarter million or more—and even 10 per cent—divided 50 ways. . . .

"Captain W." said the Major, "write and get us the loot." "But Major . . ." "That's an order son." (At this time we had given up talking like Limeys and had adopted the American manner of speech.)

So I wrote . . .

Alas! A very prompt, very official dispatch on very high class paper came back—not from the War Office with a cheque, as expected, but from the Foreign Office, with a reprimand couched as follows:

1. That was a hospital ship you captured in breach of art. VII of the Hague Convention.
2. You will restore the vessel to her captain and crew forthwith.
3. The crewmen were Belgians, citizens of a friendly power, they ought not to have been made P.O.W. and you will secure their release immediately.
4. As a matter of law only the Navy is entitled to prize money. (The incident at Minden is exceptional.)
5. Your request is denied.

Major Porteous was most understanding, he pointed out that as 2 1/c the whole matter was one of administration in which I had failed, that if there was a reprimand it was for me, not him. Hadn't I written the letter?

Later we had a fouled anchor embroidered on the squadron guidon in honor of our great naval victory.

C. D. W.

## THE VIIIth RECCE SPIRIT

When the "Recce" moved into Germany, wild stories were rampant of women and children picking up a discarded rifle or pistol to shoot an allied soldier in the back.

On hearing this, someone remarked to Sgt. J. G. Tootle, "It was tough enough fighting through France, Belgium and Holland with a friendly populace at our back. What do you think of this development, Jim?"

He replied, "Being a lowly liberator has become boring. I am looking forward to being a conqueror."

E. Wrightman

## A R-R-RING-A-DAM-DO

On a dark, chilly night in April, 1945 "A" Squadron had harbored in a farm field some 50 miles north and east of Groningen, Holland. While sentries patrolled the area, with sten guns slung over their shoulders and the hoods of their tank suits pulled up over their heads, their buddies slept curled up under their vehicle tarps. In a few minutes it would be reveille and their two hours of vigilance would end. Occasionally bright, red tracers would snake across the sky as an AA gun sought its prey overhead and from time to time a muffled thud would be heard as a stray shell landed in some distant field. Here, where the armoured cars and carriers sat with their outlines broken by the camouflage nets draped over them, it had been very quiet all night. But, if they listened closely, the sentries could hear a puzzling, eerie sort of tic - tic - tic as if a hundred crickets were quietly chirping to the measured beat of a metronome. Then without warning an ear-shattering clatter broke the silence.

Was it a surprise attack by the enemy that brought Major Bob Gentles, Squadron OC, bouncing out of his command vehicle inquiring from his startled 2 i/c Hughie Cowans, "What in the hell is all that?" Was it the whine and crash of 88's landing in their midst that brought 150 men quickly to their feet snatching for the nearest weapon they could find? Was it the ominous drone of a buzz bomb that scared the Dutch family out of their farm home in night attire while their chickens, no strangers to the sound of battle, set up a squawking protest and their Belgian work horses galloped in wild terror around the narrow confines of their pasture? No, it was none of these but no stranger sound ever broke the silence of night in a theatre of action in this or any other war. It was none other than the sound of one hundred and fifty alarm clocks — more or less — all going off at the same time.

The previous day as "A" Squadron roamed far and wide through this area of Holland seeking out the last remnants of Hitler's Wehrmacht, No. 3 Troop had chanced upon and captured a barge plying its way along a canal leading to Delfzijl on the North Sea. In its hold they found several hundred cases of 4711 Eau de Cologne, a large quantity of excellent Gouda cheese and, believe it or not, about 500 alarm clocks, the kind you buy in any store today for about \$3.95. It was, indeed, a strange cargo to find at this stage of the war.

The Eau de Cologne that wasn't drunk found its way onto the black market in Antwerp enriching a few of our more enterprising comrades. Cheese became a staple part of our diet for a few weeks and the surplus was traded for whatever Dutch delicacies the countryside could provide, both culinary and amatory. The alarm clocks were a different matter. A restricted issue would not have found favor with the rank and file and so it was one clock per man, be he Officer, NCO or Trooper. The heavier sleepers asked for and received two—one for each ear.

That night, after the squadron had harbored down, orders were issued for the following day, centre lines allotted and a 4:30 AM reveille laid on. Each man, before closing his tired eyes, dutifully wound his new found treasure and set it for the prescribed time.

And that is how it happened that at 4:30 AM on a chilly, dark morning in a lonely farm field in northeastern Holland in April, 1945 one hundred and fifty alarm clocks, more or less, all began to ring in unison bringing one hundred and fifty battle-hardened men to their feet reaching for a rifle butt, a spanner, any damn thing to put a stop to the noise that had so suddenly shattered their sleep. This was the weird, unaccustomed sound that brought Sergeant-Major Johnny Schultz charging through the harbour area like an enraged bull bellowing "Turn off dos Got Damm't tings! Do you vant we shud all get kill't?"

Either the enemy was deaf or out of ammunition because the noise did not, as feared, draw his fire. But "A" Squadron wasted no time in getting mounted and on its way leaving behind a bewildered Dutch farm family, an outraged rooster still trying to gather up his feathered harem, a team of white-eyed, blowing Belgian work horses and a pile of useless, twisted, broken \$3.95 alarm clocks.

R. H. G.

## THE FIRST REUNION

"I wonder what it'll be like seeing all the fellows again." These words, spoken by one of us echoed all our thoughts as we drove from Calgary to Swift Current on a clear, frosty afternoon in November, 1961. Travelling with me and forming part of the Alberta contingent to the first post war reunion of the VIIIth Recce Regiment were Marc Daunais, Denny McGee, George Montgomery and Scotty Dryden. All of us carried happy memories of wonderful years together during the war and the cherished friendships that only comrades-in-arms can share. But would this indefinable something that bound us together under wartime conditions—call it esprit-de-corps, comradeship, whatever you like—remain? Could it survive this separation of some 15 to 20 years? This was the doubt we all felt and that our companion had voiced.

We arrived in Swift Current in the early evening and reported to the Healey Hotel the headquarters for the reunion. Many had already registered and as I signed I noticed many long-forgotten names and tried desperately to recall the faces. I wanted to be able to greet each one by name. Fortunately, a thoughtful committee had arranged for large name cards to be worn so, apart from the usual struggle with my bifocals, this problem was solved for me.

Over 100 ex-members of the VIIIth Recce were to register during the ensuing two days of the Reunion. As was to be expected, Saskatchewan contributed the bulk of this number but Alberta had a sizeable delegation and there was a sprinkling from British Columbia, Manitoba and Western Ontario. The long distance record went to Dick Heward who made it all the way from Lachine, Quebec.

The first of the formal affairs was held at the local armouries where we were the guests of the 14th Canadian Hussars, the reserve unit that spawned the VIIIth Recce as an offshoot. What an experience meeting together after all these years! As each new group came in, the room rang with such greetings as "Boss Campbell ya' old (censored) ya 'haven't changed a bit." "Dagwood, ya' (censored - censored) where's that five bob ya' borrowed at Petworth." Some had changed beyond all hope of immediate recognition—the younger ones particularly—lads who had been in their early twenties during the war and were now approaching middle age and assuming the proportions and afflictions of that age group. Others had changed but little.

With the preliminary greetings out of the way we got down to the happy business of just being together again. Liquid rations seemed to be inexhaustible (heavens knows we did our best to exhaust them) and our tongues loosened in direct ratio to the flow. Slowly, as the evening wore on and the empties piled up, the years began to melt away in the warmth of our renewed comradeship. This was a gathering of men whom time had mellowed. Old army gripes had long since been cast aside and personal enmities long forgotten. We joined up again, we trained together again and we fought and won the war again, with, I might add, considerably more dash and clan than was ever displayed in action. It was noted too that the unpleasant things were now amusing memories and good for a laugh all around when we talked about them. But frequently there crept into the conversation, the name or a memory of one who had not come back and for a moment we were silent and war was no longer amusing.

And so it went on into the night, and the next day and the night that followed that. When the Armouries closed (or ran dry, I forget which) we moved back to the Healey and carried on. But somewhere in the heat of action we held a business meeting, formed an association and elected officers. We even had a banquet and listened to some dignitaries speak. It all added something to the whole affair and lent a measure of dignity to the main purpose of the reunion—being together once again.

All good things must end and had this first reunion not ended when it did it would have been the end of most of us. For “old sweats” we had stood up to the pace remarkably well but it was a wise decision that held the reunion down to two days. There was a touch of sadness in saying goodbye but though in the phrase of the medicals we were “weak, war worn, weary and debilitated”, we were happy in the thought of being buddies once again with new experiences to remember and share when next we met.

“Boy, wasn’t that wonderful! Better than anything I’d hoped for.” As he had on the trip down our spokesman once again gave voice to our thoughts. What else was left to say but Amen!

R. H. GENTLES



## **From the First Reunion 8th RECCE RIDES AGAIN!!!**

Snow drifted quietly down on the men as they emerged from the vehicles. They entered the headquarters building and were given a quick briefing.

It seemed quite military and yet it wasn't. But you could forgive the men of the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment if they didn't look like soldiers—it's been 15 years and 15 years changes everyone—including soldiers.

It was Saturday and the first re-union of the Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars) since a cold December day in 1945 when they returned to Swift Current from Germany and were absorbed into civilian life.

All, however, did not return and it was a fitting thing the re-union fell a day after Remembrance Day. Those who returned had ample opportunity to remember the 102 men and 15 officers who remained among the regiment's 394 casualties.

### *From East and West*

In all, 110 men came from all over Western Canada, British Columbia and Ontario to see the comrades with whom they fought during the war. The re-union, a brainchild of Regina's Fred Lamb, was a roaring success. Lamb was elected president of the association and plans were laid for another re-union, time and place to be set by the executive.

John Sader of Moose Jaw was named secretary-treasurer and a director was elected from each province.

Mayor R. C. Dahl welcomed the regimental members to the city and playfully asked why they had taken 15 years to hold a re-union. He said the city was proud to be the headquarters for the 14th Hussars and he hoped it would not be another 15 years before they got together again.

Major I. Clifton, present OC of the local Hussars, also spoke to the dinner Saturday. He told the guests of the present role of the 14th in the modern army of today.

Lt. Col. D. J. Burke, also an officer and former CO of the Hussars, spoke to the group on the past exploits of the regiment in a toast. It was replied to by regimental historian I. J. Nokoney.

---

### **Remembrance Day Parade**

Eight of the early arrivals attended the Remembrance Day service in Swift Current. A wreath in remembrance of our fallen comrades was laid by Fred Lamb and Jim Crawford. Attending parade were: Fred Lamb, Regina; Bob Armstrong, Swift Current; Jim Crawford, Victoria, B.C.; Bertwistle, Victoria, B.C.; Phil Waltho, Hornepayne, Ont.; Petre, Hornepayne, Ont.; Bob Narada, Swift Current; L. B. Beck, Bay Tree, Alta.

## THE SECOND REUNION

Swift Current

Saturday and Sunday, June 29th and 30th, 1963

The second reunion of the VIIIth Recce Association proved emphatically that the members liked holding these periodic reunions and from this came the idea of holding our upcoming 25th Anniversary Reunion in Calgary this year. Attendance was down from the first reunion but most of them were repeaters. For the first time wives were invited and a great many came. (A moment of panic developed when one of them proved to be a war bride from Angmering-on-Sea. When it was learned she had a poor memory for names and faces all the married members present heaved a sigh of relief.)

Saskatchewan provided the largest attendance again but Alberta and British Columbia were well represented. Manitoba had only a few and there were none this time from the East.

How did this reunion compare with the first? Every bit as good and, in some respects, better because the ladies added a touch of grace and dignity to the proceedings that was lacking two years before. Two days of steady rain failed to mar the reunion or dampen our enthusiasm. (Compared with a wet night on the Southdowns under a vehicle tarp this was living.) The free and easy program of the first reunion was again followed with the same success. We had a lot of fun just being together again. The official functions centered around a banquet held on the Saturday night. The fact that this was the 22nd anniversary of the arrival in England of the L-53's was duly noted. The banquet was followed by a dance and social evening. It worked out perfectly. There was one wife for every two men. The ladies got all the dancing they desired and the men were able to work on split shifts—one on the dance floor and one at the bar.

Once again the major share of the work fell onto the capable shoulders of Fred Lamb, the then President of the Association, and his Secretary-Treasurer, Jack Sader. These two will be looking forward to an opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves at the next reunion while others do the work but to them must go the lion's share of the credit for organizing the reunions in the first place and keeping the idea alive by holding the second one.

The highlight of the second reunion came at the conclusion of the business meeting on Sunday afternoon which closed off the official functions. It was decided to hold another reunion in Calgary in 1966 and annual fees of \$2.00 per member were set. Whereupon practically everyone in attendance immediately paid their three year's membership in advance. It was a wonderful vote of confidence in the new executive and established a precedent on dues that we have followed since. Speaking for that executive I can say that this gave us a tremendous lift. And so on to our Third, and we feel sure, Biggest reunion yet—the 25th Anniversary Reunion in Calgary on July 22nd and 23rd, 1966.

R. H. G.





## LILI MARLENE

Underneath the lantern by the barrack gate,  
Darling I remember the way you used to wait;  
'Twas there that you whispered tenderly,  
That you loved me, You'd always be

My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.  
Time would come for roll call, time for us to part,  
Darling I'd caress you and press you to my heart;  
And there 'neath that far off lantern light,  
I'd hold you tight, We'd kiss goodnight,  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

Orders come for sailing somewhere over there,  
All confined to barracks was more than I could bear;  
I know you were waiting in the street,  
I heard your feet, But could not meet  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

Resting in a billet just behind the line,  
Even though we're parted your lips are close to mine;  
You wait where that lantern softly gleams  
Your sweet face seems to haunt my dreams  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

*This song, by far the best of World War II, is printed here, because in the editor's opinion it expresses the romanticism and loneliness of the soldier. It's haunting melody, will, I am sure, evoke many memories.*



*And they shall grow not old  
As we who are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them  
Nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.*

*— Binion*

